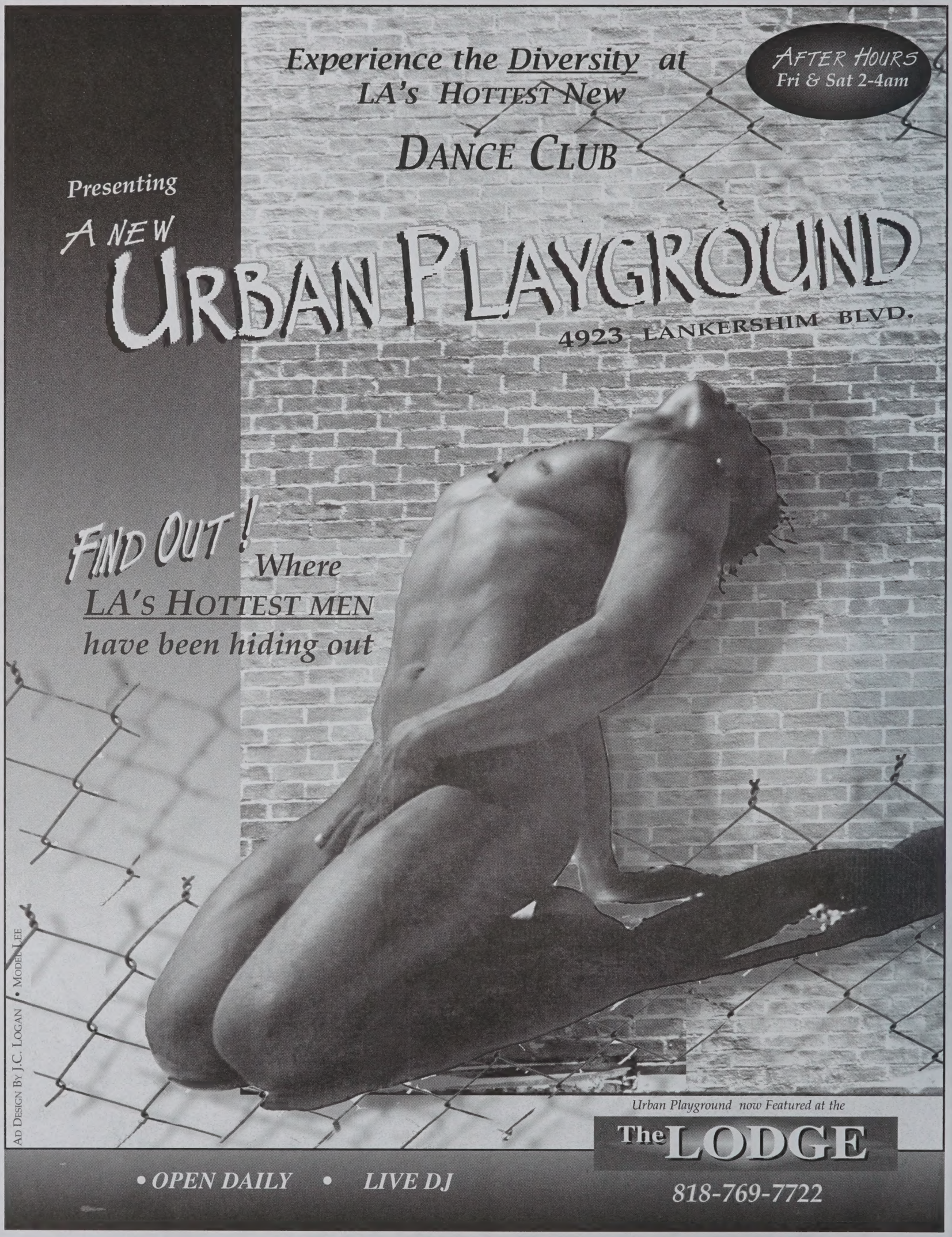
SBG
November 96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Excerpt from ***the delta:***

"...Elect Lady Shirley Caesar was preaching now, her scratchy alto delivering the fiery sermonette to a driving House beat.

She told the story of 'Shouting John,' who was told by the dignified church members that he couldn't dance in their sanctuary.

"You can't tell me that I dance too much!"
"Hold my mule. I'll shout right here!!!"

The children had lost it - or found it one. It was 12:01 AM and the doors of the church were open. Freaking. Vouging. Freestyling. Truly, the Saints were marching in...

Excerpt from **busfare:**

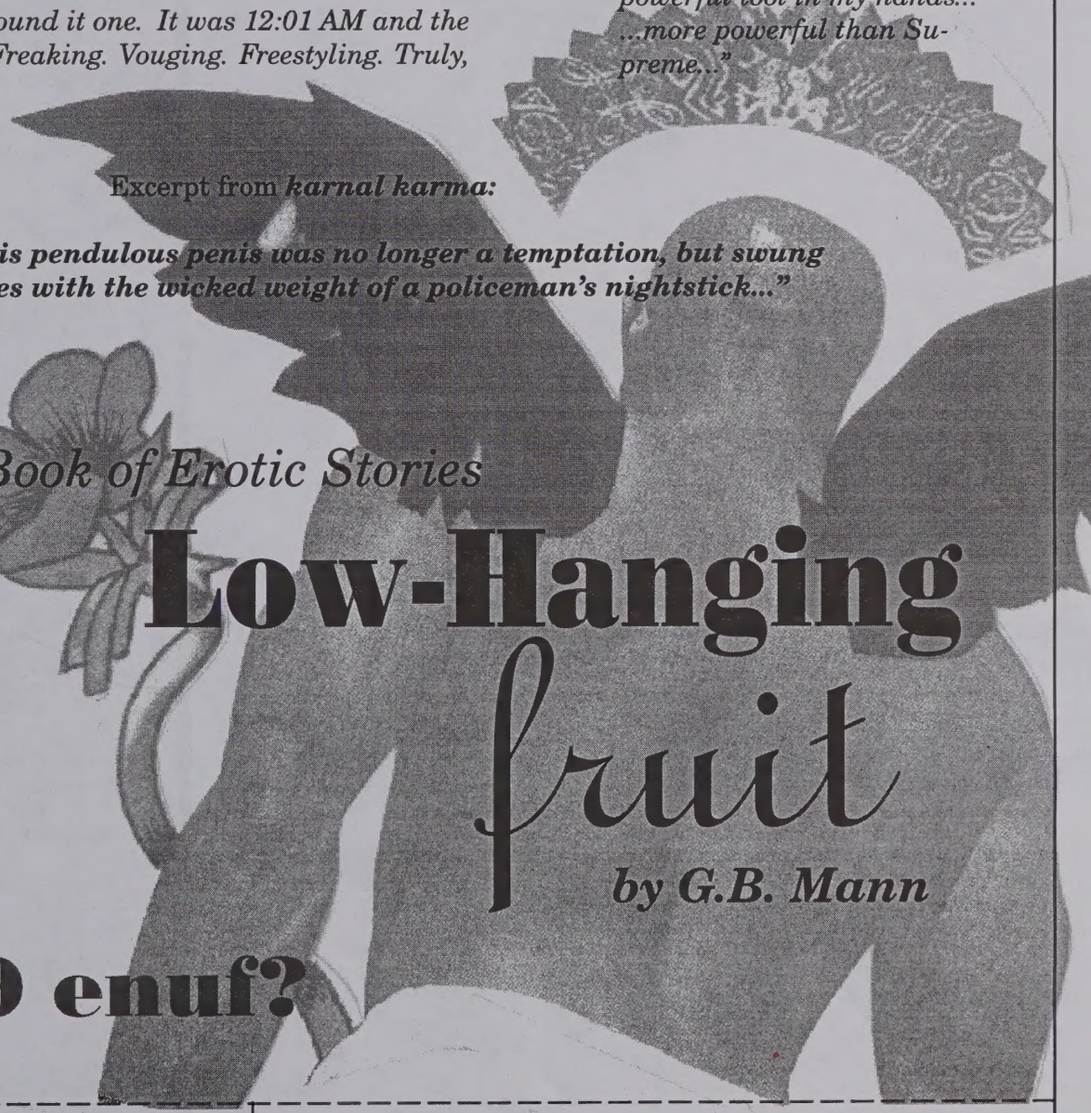
"...I found a morning Post and used it as a shield - a private little ampitheatre..."

"...I began to beat it just for him, my slim fingers strumming the matte brown shaft like it was a jazzy bass fiddle..."

"...I felt like I held a very powerful tool in my hands... ...more powerful than Supreme..."

Excerpt from ***karnal karma:***

"...Drying off, his pendulous penis was no longer a temptation, but swung near his knees with the wicked weight of a policeman's nightstick..."



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by G.B. Mann

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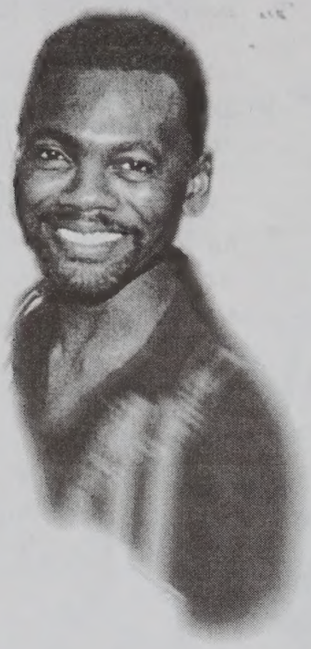

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VOTE

11.5.96

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NOVEMBER 1996

STANLEY BENNETT CLAY
Publisher and Editor-In-Chief

William DeBardelaben
Director of Sales

Gregory Victorianne
New England Correspondent

Wil Jackson
Philadelphia Correspondent

Lynwoodt Jenkins
Atlanta Correspondent

Gregory Eugene Travis
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Orlando Robinson
Fashion and Music Editor

Editorial Contributors:
Lawrence Braithwaite
Stanley Bennett Clay
Paul Smith
Orlando Robinson
Gregory Eugene Travis

Graphic design
Stanley Bennett Clay
William DeBardelaben

Ron Singleton
Chief Photographer

Print and On-line Advertising Sales:
William DeBardelaben
213.733.5661 FAX 213.733.9200

Atlanta/Southern Regional Sales:
Chip Williford 404.244.6866

National Advertising Representative:
Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 1268 Plainfield, NJ 07060
908.232.2021 Fax: 908.232.0521

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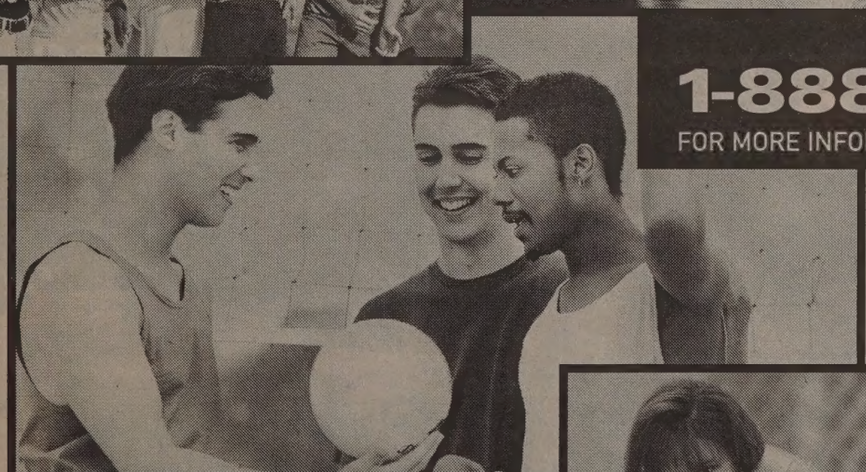
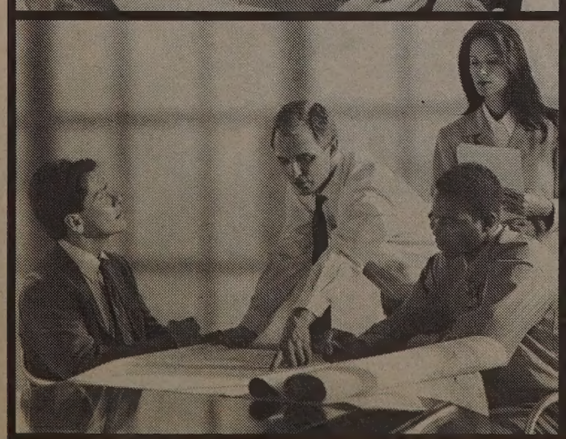
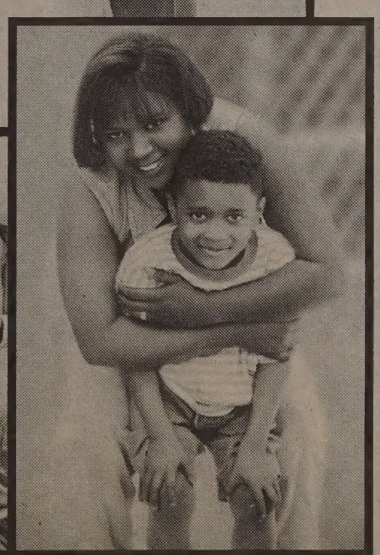
Be Smart About HIV







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DTP134R0 OCTOBER 1996

On this page:

Artists' manager Jabil Hicks
Photography by Tri Tran

On the cover:

Model Jay Buxton
Photography by Gene Golden
Hat and clothing by Protek
Styling by Orlando Robinson

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THANK YOU MR. WHITFIELD

I am writing to express my sentiments on behalf of the article "The Greatest Love of All" (SBC Vol. 5 Issue 6) by Credric Whitfield. The article/autobiographical sketch was both inspiring and empowering. Mr. Whitfield is an wonderful writer and one who has been through a lot. I want him to know that he has helped me to become more sure of myself as a black gay man, and that I am not alone in my struggles.

Thank you, Mr. Whitfield, for taking the time out to write your article. It was very well written and it really hit home. Good luck to you in all of your endeavors. And thank you SBC for providing an apparatus in which we black gay men have the opportunity to express some of our concerns.

Stan Johnson
Los Angeles, CA

LETTERS

DETROIT IN THE STRUGGLE

I would first like to thank you for the wonderful article that was printed in your magazine for our [Detroit '96] "Hotter Than July". I'm truly glad we met and you had a chance to come out and enjoy our 1st annual festivities with us and give some first hand insight on what we wanted to accomplish for our African American Brothers and Sisters.

As you know, Men of Color Motivational Group Inc. Detroit is in the business of empowering our gay brothers to come out and be heard as well as offering support to those inflicted with HIV/AIDS and offering Safe Sex parties to help offset this disease that is trying to "cripple us all".

All over the globe we are "fighting: for our freedom; it will take all of us and all our efforts to make any of our "dreams" come true.

Your In the Struggle,

Cornelius A. Wilson
President
Men of Color Motivational Group
Detroit, MI

WHAT ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY?

Even though October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the African American Gay/Lesbian/Trans community has done little if anything to acknowledge it.

First, let me acknowledge that I am a victim/survivor of domestic violence. It has taken a long time to come to grips that a successful, politically active African American gay man could have been a victim. But it's true.

I am no longer embarrassed or feel the need to hang my head low because I put my faith, love and life in the hands of another African American gay man who abused that trust, and neither should you.

What is needed in this evolution of our community is openness and awareness. For too long, my brothers and sisters have tried unsuccessfully to sweep this somewhat personal problem under the floor boards, but now our houses are buckling. The foundation which holds us together is slowly crumbling under the weight of this growing cancer. And now we must operate, or at the least, bring the illness up for examination.

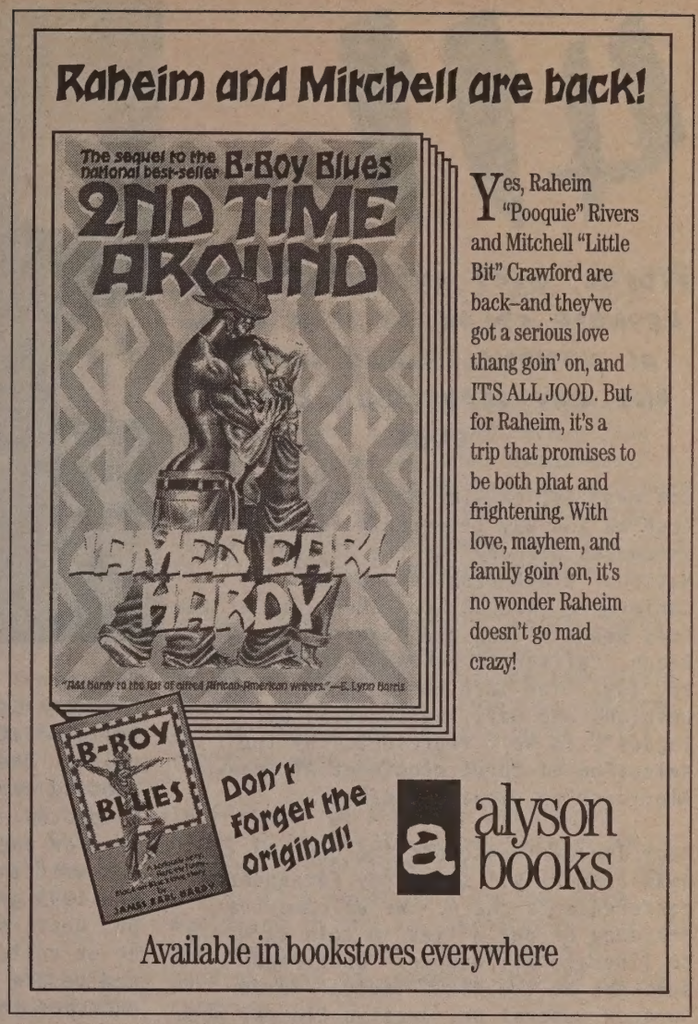
Several of us are in the process of bringing an awareness to this unspoken problem. We are finding that this is growing and even more so in relationships where one or both partners are HIV+.

There are no easy solutions, but something has to be done. We plan to work with both Horizon Community Services and Kupona
Network to assist in referrals, advocacy, help and follow-up.

It does not matter whether you are top or bottom, masculine or feminine, gay or lesbian. You have a responsibility. That is to recognize and eradicate this before it gets too far out of hand.

With this being Domestic Violence Awareness Month, let us do just that. [Let us] begin to raise our own awareness, then that of our community, because we have to.

Derrick A. Hicks
Chicago, Ill


Raheim and Mitchell are back!
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B-BOY BLUES
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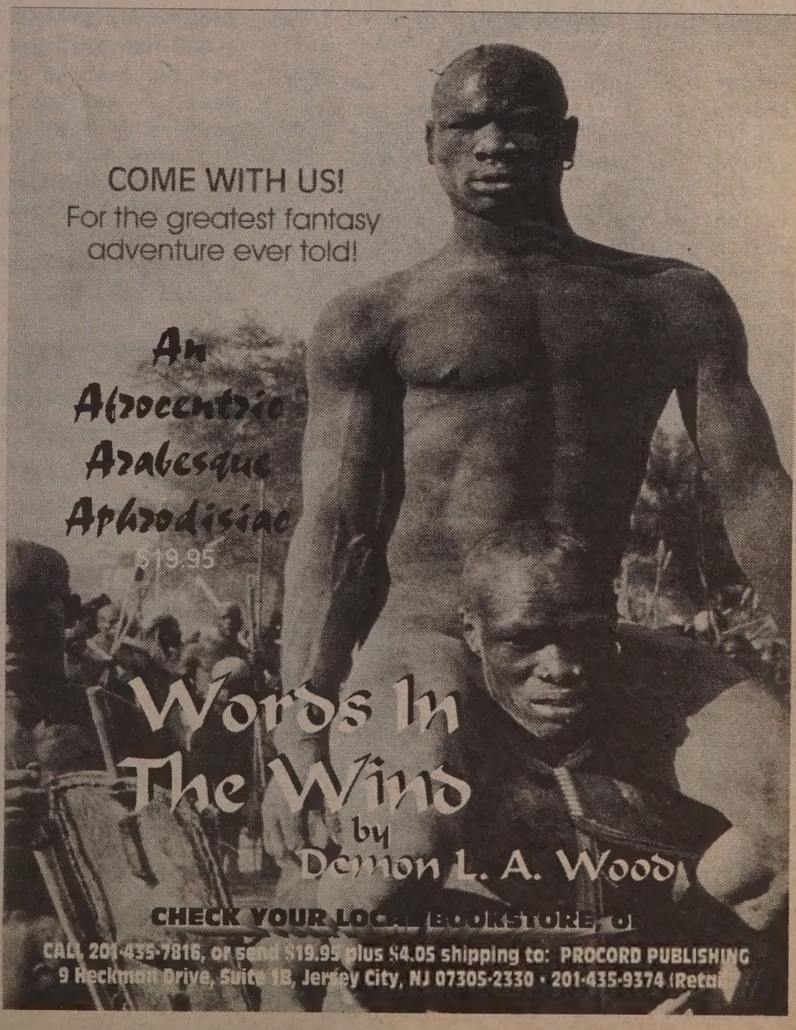
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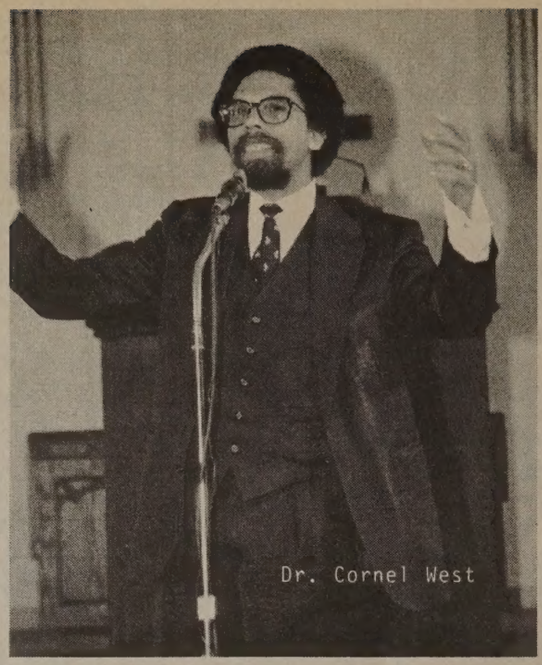
ELDERS, WEST AND JORDAN WILL KEYNOTE SPEAK AT 10TH ANNUAL NATIONAL BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Los Angeles, CA--The National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum (NBGLF) announced plenary for the historic 10th National Black Lesbian and Gay Conference (NBGLGC) to take place at the Long Beach Hilton and Towers in Long Beach, California February 13 through 17, 1997. The 10th NBLGC theme, "Black Lesbians and Gays, Celebrating Our Legacy", is well represented by the selection of three prominent African-Americans as plenary speakers.

"Our legacy transcends the gay and lesbian community," said Troy Fernandez, conference co-chair. "We welcome the presence of our allies in this struggle to liberate all people." Confirmed speakers at the NBLGC include former Surgeon General Dr. Jocelyn Elders, poet and activist June Jordan, and Harvard Professor Dr. Cornel West.

Former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Jocelyn Elders, the first African-American and the first woman to hold that post, will deliver the opening address at the AIDS/Healthcare Institute. Elders revolutionized the direction of public health opinion with her concerns for the common person, and concentration on preventative medicine. "I want to change concerns about social problems that affect health into commitments. I would like to make every child born in America a wanted child. I want to change the way we think about health by putting prevention first. I want to be the voice for the poor and the powerless," she said during her 1993 Senate confirmation hearings. Elders resigned the Surgeon General's post in 1994 when her courageous and controversial endorsements butted heads with the religious right and other radical conservative forces.

June Jordan, poet, essayist, playwright and political activist, will deliver the address at the conference opening ceremony. Jordan's work transcends the traditional bounds of self and society, while expressing conscious optimism, equality and tenderness. She is one of the rare activists whose greatest strength is her ability to live what she believes. Appearing in virtually every major anthology of contemporary poetry and authoring more than 19 books has made Jordan the most published African-American writer in history.



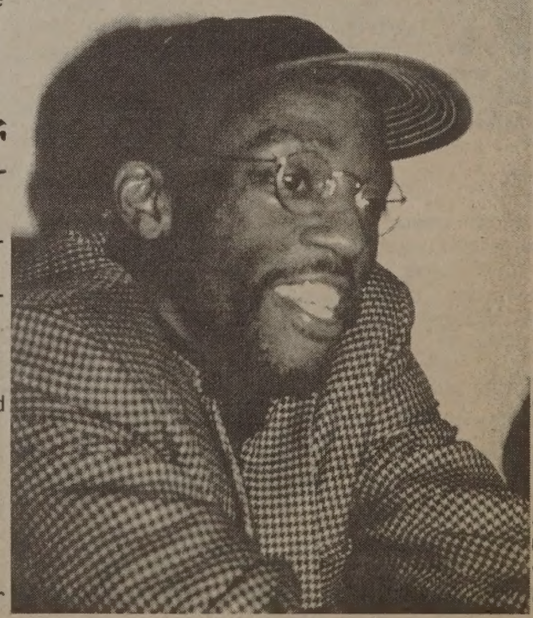
Dr. Cornel West

Dr. Cornel West, professor of Afro-American Studies and Philosophy of Religion at Harvard University will deliver the address at the conference's closing ceremonies. Dr. West , the well respected scholar and contemporary philosopher, has written numerous books, including the 1993 ground-breaking "Race Matters". Dr. West is a well sought-after lecturer on college and university campuses and before civic organizations and churches throughout the nation.

Each year, the NBLGC attracts nearly 1,000 national and international Black gay and lesbian presenters and attendees, as well as many friends and supporters of the community.

For more information regarding the NBLGC, contact the Conference Planning Committee at 213.964.7820.

BLACK MEN LIKING, LOVING AND LUSTING - EACH OTHER



the late Essex Hemphill

Los Angeles, CA--- Two male Africans running from slavery make love on the Underground Railroad. A grove of black men stand under a night sky in ritual masturbation. A "straight" ex-con exorcises his life's demons watching two other men make love. These are but 3 of the 9 scenarios from a forthcoming book of homo-erotic fiction from GrapeVinePress titled *Low-Hanging Fruit*. To be released in December 1996, this creation fills a void in the genre of published erotic fiction written by African American men in their own voices and sensibilities.

G.B. Mann, a Howard University graduate and Washington D.C. native, is the author of *Low-Hanging Fruit*. A writer since childhood, the seed for this volume was planted nearly two decades ago by his grandmother. "I remember her saying that the sweetest fruit hung low on the tree. I can hear her now...That statement and the combination of my conceptual thinking and sensuality created/wrote the book."

The book visits uniquely black spaces, is peopled by white and blue-collars, b-boys, men in drag, prom-goers, bus riders, and the insane. Mann sums up Fruit as "Mixed nuts getting nuts...with some hopefully profound affirmations, signifiers, and surprises."

Low-Hanging Fruit will be available in bookstores and through SBC magazine November 15th.

A PLACE FOR HIV NEGATIVE MEN

Long Beach, CA--There are many reasons we continue to put ourselves at risk for HIV, and once infected, there are many places to go to talk about them. But for men who are still uninfected, there's been little else besides being handed a condom or attending a safer-sex workshop.

Now in Long Beach there's Generation Sex, a safe place for HIV-negative gay men to talk about our lives and ourselves. It's a place to deal with the issues and stresses of remaining uninfected.

Staying HIV-negative can be a lot more complicated than the "use a condom every time" messages we hear. Not being able to talk to our partner, or expecting to get infected eventually, are just some of the issues many of us are dealing with every time we drop our pants.

Join us at our next weekly group and learn to deal with the issues of remaining negative. Generation Sex meets Mondays at 6:30 PM at 1407 East Fourth Street. For more information call 310.495.2330 ext. 145.

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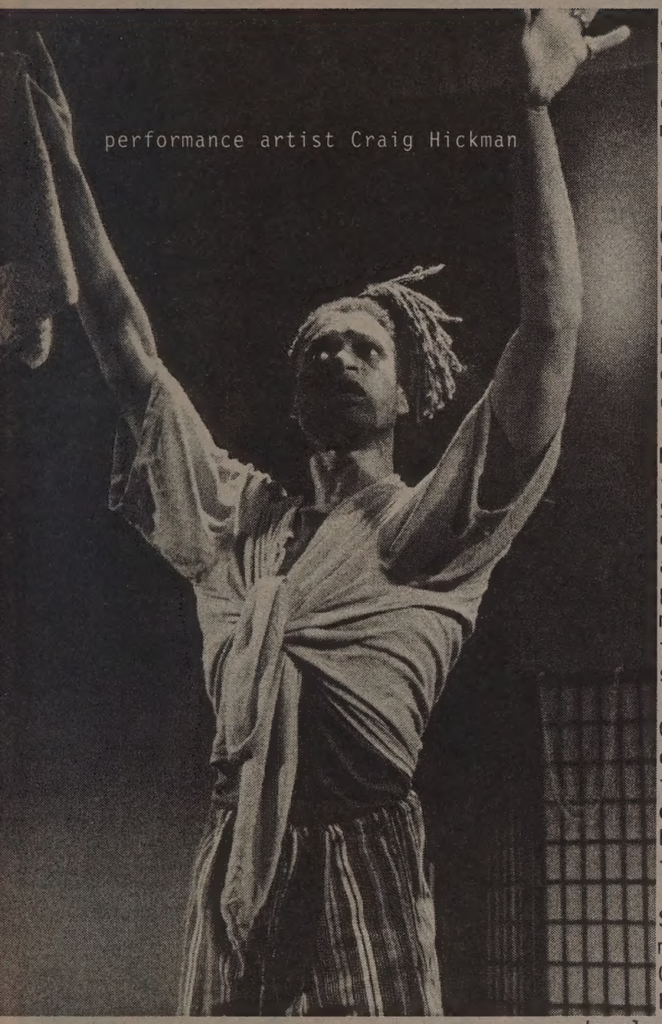

performance artist Craig Hickman

'RITES & PERMISSION' TRIBUTE TO ESSEX HEMPHILL NOVEMBER 14TH

Boston, Ma---On the night of Thursday, November 14, 1996 at 7:30 PM, an evening of poetry by the late Essex Hemphill will be presented at Boston's Institute of Contemporary Art's (ICA) Theater as a part of their New Histories Project. Essex's Work will be performed by performance artists and poets Craig Hickman, Thomas Grimes and Philip Robinson. The admission is $10. For further information, contact Laura Brown at ICA 617.6607.

MAGIC JOHNSON THEATERS GO NATIONAL

Los Angeles, Ca--Prompted by the phenomenal success of the flagship Magic Johnson 12 screen multiplex in Los Angeles' Black upscale Baldwin Hills Shopping Mall (considered the most successful multi-screener in the nation), Magic Johnson Theatres and corporate partner, Sony Retail Entertainment, announced a major expansion plan which will bring the basketball superstar's namesake chain to a dozen more cities over the next 18 months.

14 new Magic Johnson Theatre complexes will be built in New Orleans, Cleveland, Chicago, San Diego, Washington DC and Baltimore, adding to previously announced projects in Detroit and New York, and 12-screen multiplexes in Atlanta and Houston, both currently under construction.

MJT officials estimate the total investment in the new theaters at $30 million. But the total cost--counting the money that landlords and developers may put into the project--will be upward of $120 million. The expansion will bring the chain's total number of screens to more than 200.

Officials with MJT said that the expansion signals a new comittment from exhibitors and other retailers to invest in financially hard-hit urban areas, especially minority communities.

Sensing a trend in urban development and a fresh audience base, Cineplex Odeon and Inner City Entertainment announced plans to develop three multiplexes in predominantly Latino and Black communities on Chicago's west and south sides.

MJT officials, in fact, were reluctant to release precise locations of some of their new theaters because of the competition for retail locations among exhibitors.

"We would like to think that what we have proven with [the Baldwin Hills/Crenshaw location] is that this is not a risky business, that this is truly good business," MJT president Kenneth Lombard said in a press conference with Johnson and Sony Retail Entertainment president Lawrence J. Ruisi.

The first Magic Johnson multiplex, which opened at the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza in June 1995 and has been the country's top grosser ever since, had more than 1 million patrons the first year.

"There is a tremendous retail push throughout the country of recognizing the buying power of urban locations," Lombard said. "We hope that we have been on the forefront of really proving to other retailers like ourselves that this is truly an excellent opportunity."

In New York, for example, an 11-screen Magic Johnson Theatre complex will anchor an $80 million office and retail complex that is being built in Jamaica, NY, the first new theater to be built there in more than 50 years.

In Southern California, the company plans to open a 14-screen theater in Carson in fall 1997 and a 16-screen multiplex at a location along Van Nuys Boulevard in the San Fernando Valley in the spring of 1998. The Baldwin Hills complex will be expanded from 12 to 16 screens.

Ruisi said that they chose large urban areas underserved by new theater complexes.

The new theaters will feature stadium-style seating, ranging in size from 100 to 700 seats per theater. Each theater will cost from $10 million to $15 million to build.

A complete list of the new theaters and their locations are as follows:

Atlanta, Greenbriar Mall, 12 screens, opens November 15, 1996; Houston, Northline Mall, 12 screens, opens spring 1997; Chicago, two south side locations, 16 screens each, opens fall 1997; Detroit, 16 screens, opens fall 1997; Carson, 14 screens, opens fall 1997; New Orleans, 16 screens, November 1997, Cleveland, location to be announced, 14 screens, November 1997.

Los Angeles, Baldwin Hills expansion, 4 screens, January 1998; New York, Harlem, 12 screens, January 1998; San Diego, location to be announced, 14 screens, spring 1998; Los Angeles, Van Nuys Boulevard, 16 screens, spring 1998.

Melba Moore Eartha Kitt and AIDS Walk producer, Craig Miller

AIDSWALK RAISES $3.4 MILLION

Los Angeles, CA--25,000 Los Angelenos took another step forward in the fight against AIDS at the 12th annual AIDS Walk Los Angeles, held September 29th at Paramount Studios.

The event , which raised a record $3.4 million, drew such Hollywood celebrities as Christina Applegate ("Married With Children"), Peri Gilpin (Roz on "Frasier"), Terri Hatcher ("2 Days In The Valley"), Leon ("Waiting To Exhale"), songstress Melba Moore and the legendary Eartha Kitt.

Kathy Najimy ("Sister Act", "Sister Act II"), seven months pregnant with a baby daughter due on Christmas day, congratulated the crowd on their activism and for making the choice to take a stand against AIDS. "Everyday we make choices. This is a choice, being here today. We make a mistake if we think there is some group of people somewhere else who are going to do this for us."

Eartha Kitt, who had laryngitis, walked with her two dogs, Abba and Mootsi. Master of Ceremonies Jamie Lee Curtis brought her two children. "Even my hairdresser's here," she quipped. "I'm walking for my daughter and son," she told the crowd, "so they will be able to make love without fear in a world without AIDS."

LGADDA ELECTS NEW OFFICERS, MAKES ENDORSEMENTS

New officers of Lesbian and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action (LGADDA) were elected at the organization's meeting on Thursday, August 22. Ron Hypolite, an Oakland attorney and the Client Services Director of the AIDS Legal Referral Program, was elected chair for the 1996-1997 term. Hypolite is also the editor of Departure Point, an African American newsletter.

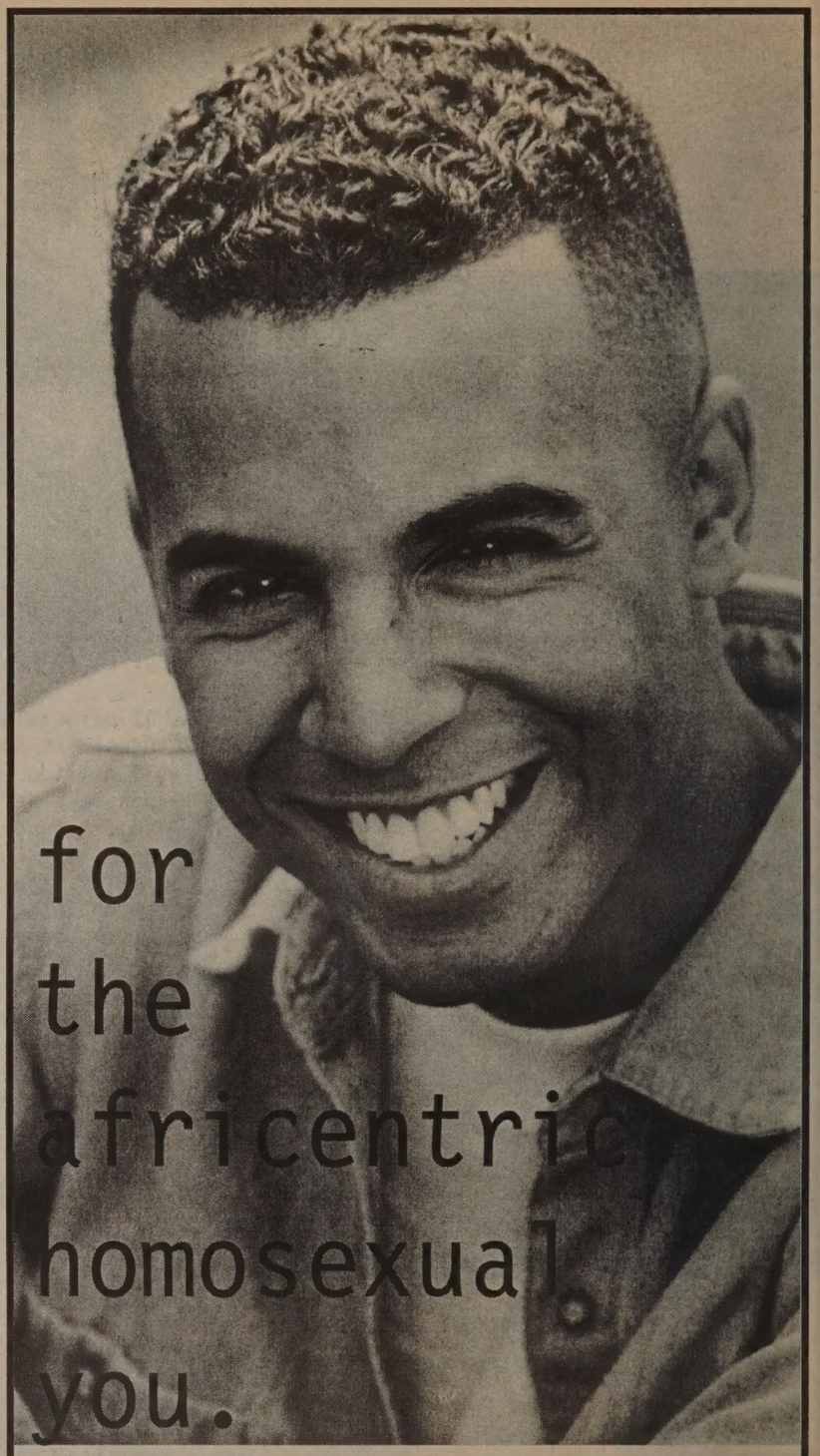
In accepting the nomination, Hypolite said his goals for LGADDA include "renewing alliances with other organizations representing lesbian/gay communities of color, coalescing with the larger lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender community, strengthening ties with the African-American community at large and working with our leaders in City Hall."

Also elected were Alonzo Reese, the outgoing LGADDA co-chair, as chair of LGADDA's Political Action Committee; Gwen Craig as Corresponding Secretary and Randy Miller as Treasurer. Both Craig, a longtime lesbian activist who is chair of the city's Elections Task Force and a former police commissioner, and Miller, Executive Director of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention, are also former co-chairs of LGADDA.

Before electing its new officers, the organization heard from candidates and from advocates and opponents of propositions on the November ballot, and voted on the organization's endorsements. Bill Clinton was endorsed for President, as well as the Democrats running for state offices: John Burton for State Senate, Kevin Shelley for the 12th District State Assembly seat, and Carole Migden for the 13th District State Assembly seat.

In the San Francisco Board of Supervisors race, LGADDA endorsed Sue Blerman, Leslie Katz, Barbara Kaufman, Victor Marquez, Jose Medina and Michael Yaki. John Lira and Fernando Tafoya were endorsed for the Community College Board. Steve Phillips, Mauricio Vela, Juanita Owens and Jason Wong received endorsements for the San Francisco School Board.

LGADDA voted to support Proposition B (De Young Museum bond), F (supervisors salary increase), G (district elections) and H (preference voting). The organization will urge San Franciscans to vote "no" on Proposition J (sale of taxicab permits).



Los Angeles Educator Peter McDaniel

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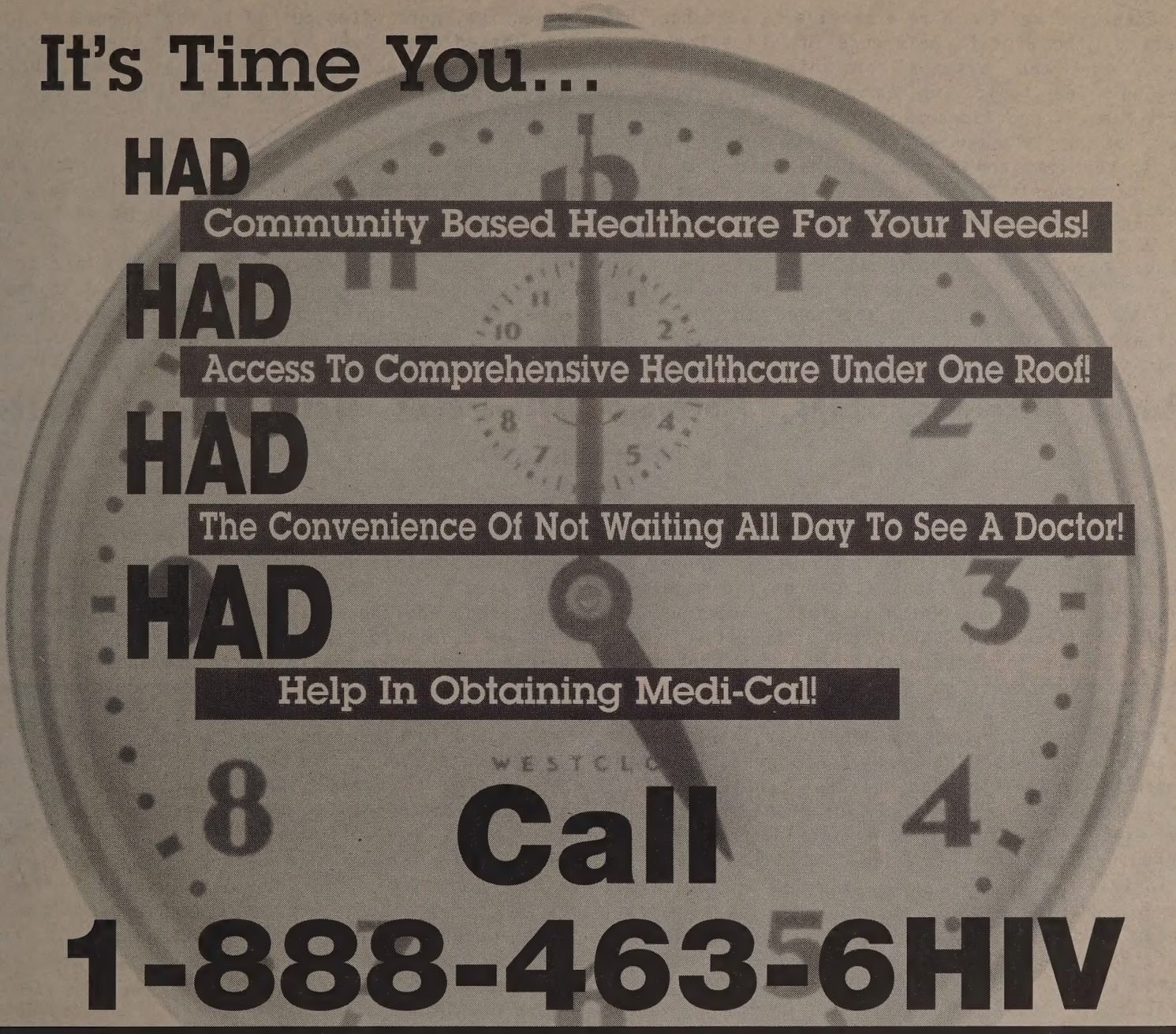

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AFRICENTRICALLY YOURS

Butch, Femmes, Tops, Bottoms- Mimicking Heterosexual Roles

By Paul M Smith, LICSW

I was recently asked to share a panel at a workshop that was part of the annual conference of a leading Black lesbian, gay and bisexual organization here in Washington. The topic was *Butch, Femmes, Tops and Bottoms: Mimicking Heterosexual Roles*. The very spirited group of mostly women was quite explicit about the myths, stereotypes and misconceptions that often grow out of our attempts to make sense of same- sex relationships. There seemed to be a lot of confusion and pain expressed by those who felt drawn into gender-scripted roles that dishonored their true emotional and sexual inclinations both in and out of the bedroom. I left the workshop feeling the need to give more thought and consideration to these issues. I have outlined in the subsequent paragraphs, some of my preliminary thinking. It is mostly drawn from my professional as well my social experience on issues of gender and sex role behavior as it translates from the models we learn growing up to those which we finally adopt as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender adults in our struggle to live in relationship with one another in ways that make sense to us.

Our gender is usually clear and God-given, however, the roles and assumptions that we bring to gender behavior are products of learning and cultural conditioning. It is great when they work for us, but problems can arise when we expect ourselves and others to take on sex roles and behaviors that fail to honor our true sexual and psychological makeup. We learn sex roles very early in our social development. Think about it for a moment? How have we been socialized and how have we learned to function in society as male and female? From early childhood on up, the messages were very clear. Little boys did this and little girls did that, and Heaven forbid that we get them confused- We were shamed by our parents, siblings and peers anytime we slightly deviated from what was deemed as appropriate role behavior. I can hear my father now telling me to _butch it up boy. I wasn't even aware of what I was doing to elicit such a sharp reaction, but I knew that whatever it was, I was deeply ashamed of it and, if I wanted his approval, I had better stop doing it, whatever it was. I suspect that many of you have your own painful memories of being shamed by those around you for behaving in certain so-called inappropriate ways, i.e. the way you walked, or talked, or the way you held your wrists or threw a ball, often ways that were natural to your instinctive tendencies.

Nonetheless, by the time we hit adolescence, we were already deeply inculturated and indoctrinated on what were appropriate sex roles and what were not. We knew well how boys and girls were expected to behave and when many of us discovered that we didn't easily conform, we were forced to modify some of our natural instinctive tendencies or risk ridicule and alienation. Those who dared to give in to their natural instinctive tendencies, were often pushed to the fringes of society and looked upon, even by many us, as the embodiment of the very shame we tried to hide. At worst, they were called punks, fags and sissies- At best they were thought of as *weird.*

Anyway, when we grew up and discovered that we were bisexual, homosexual or gender dystonic, many of us found that the script we were given by society which mapped out gender/role behavior was not always leading us to where we needed to go. We were then left to redefine sex roles and gender behavior, as we found ourselves trying to enter into and sustain same-sex relationships. Since most of us weren't riding off into life with a member of the opposite sex, we had to find a different script and a different framework upon which to reconceptualize the idea of marriage and family as it related to us. As gay, bisexual and Lesbian people, we entered adulthood with very little to work with in terms of models for same-sex relationships. No one had the *rule book* so we really had to extrapolate from other models until we could figure one that would work for us.

With regard to mimicking heterosexual roles, we really need to ask ourselves *What is it that we are doing when we try to reenact heterosexual gender roles in same-sex relationships?* If our need is to exactly emulate Mom and Dad or the models we grew up with, we can easily find ourselves in trouble. If we aren't careful, we can unwittingly (or very deliberately) find ourselves acting out the *butch/ femme*, *tops/bottoms* paradigms in our relationships and giving them stereotypical meanings that often bring up issues around *power* and *control*, *dominance* and *submission*, and other one up/one down kinds of scenarios that can be very destructive to mutuality in same-sex relationships. I have seen scenarios where a so-called bottom suggests the femme or the weaker, more submissive role; whereas the butch, or the top, suggests the stronger, more dominant role. And especially with many men whose sense of masculinity is often tied to his role of dominance then, to revert to being the bottom would pose a threat to his masculinity. When these paradigms begin oozing out of the bedroom into other parts of the relationship, they almost always create one up/one down scenarios that are harmful to mutuality and balance in same-sex loving relationships when issues around power and control; dominance and submission are being played out.

Since this topic is so value-laden and unresolved in our community, it is worth continuing the dialogue in a more interactive forum. I will be asking the TALKSHOW sponsors [Washington D.C.-based MALEBOX! magazine] to consider putting this topic on the docket again for a future TALKSHOW. Stay tuned!.

ONE-ON-ONE

WITH NOVELIST JAMES EARL HARDY

A

GREGORY EUGENE TRAVIS INTERVIEW

Among Africentric Homosexuals, James Earl Hardy has become a national treasure. His ground-breaking debut novel B-Boy Blues was the first best-selling all-out non-apologetic, Black-on-Black same gender love story that sometimes erotically, often hilariously and always fiercely contemplated and dealt head on with the question "How do you love a Black man?" from a nappy-Black point of view. Populating his pages with the glorious Brothas and sistas and aunties and uncles and mothers and fathers we all know so well but are rarely made privy to in black-skinned, white-thought gay books of days gone by, Hardy gives us our Black coffee strong, hot and sweet, just like we like it. And when we finished ready B-Boy Blues, we hungry for ourselves Africentric homosexuals begged 'More!, More!', and Brotha Hardy, not one to starve family, came back with another helping of soul food love. His B-Boy sequel, 2nd Time Around, is the new big black bull in the too-polite china shop and he's taking no prisoners. Arts & Entertainment Editor Gregory Eugene Travis sat down with Raheim's daddy recently and the following interview is the result.
---SBC

GREGORY EUGENE TRAVIS: How has B-boy Blues blowing up the way it has effected your life?

JAMES EARL HARDY: It has literally taken over my life. Mitchell, Raheim and Junior have become real. People talk to me about them as if they know them and in many cases they do because, many times, they identify themselves as a Mitchell or Raheim... or Gene or Babyface or BD. And that's really profound. Nothing I've ever written has touched people that way.

GET: It seems like a huge jump to write from Raheim's point of view in 2nd Time Around rather than staying with Mitchell's point of view. What inspired that choice?

JEH: It was just important for a character like his to have his say. At the end of B-Boy Blues not only did Mitchell have a lot of questions about Raheim (although he professes his love for this man) but so do all of us. I did not think that the best way to convey their history would be to tell the second part of the story also through Mitchell's eyes.

GET: How do you think the real B-boys are going to respond to Raheim... even though he's very Africentric, he's still also quite closeted.

JEH: I think I was able to portray him as an authentic Brother from the hood who does not identify as gay or bisexual. He is trying to deal with the fact that he is in love with another man and how that is literally tearing his world apart.

GET: How do you think Raheim's views of his masculinity and sexuality as being incompatible will play out in the community?

JEH: I think, quite frankly and unfortunately, a typical response many same gender loving men of African descent have regarding seperating the sex act--or sex itself--from who they are. Raheim doesn't waver in his beliefs that I'm just a man who happens to be in love with another man, that's all I am.

GET: But he does say to Mitchell pointedly, "I am not a homosexual."

JEH: Exactly. So there is this idea somehow, still, that he cannot be or he cannot see himself as a homosexual given all that he has been conditioned to believe about homosexuals.

GET: It sounds like he's trying to have his cake and eat it too.

JEH: Yeah, in a way. But I think, in a sense, it's kind of healthy that he's sure of where he stands with Mitchell. He obviously had to go through something to get to that point where he could verbalize it that way.

GET: You mentioned in a previous conversation that some people in the publishing world had a real problem trying to figure out how to market this book.

JEH: I think the bottom line was that this is a Black on Black gay love story and that most of the people in the [publishing] industry don't know anything about us.

GET: Do you mean primarily the white press?

JEH: Yeah... and even to a certain extent, the Black press too. Just look at the images that have been projected of us over the past decade or so. One would naturally assume that all Black gay men lie and lust in a white gay world. But the majority of us don't live in that type of world. Along comes B-boy Blues and people are dumbstruck. First of all they question that such a world as this could exist. And naturally they question the intimacy, the nurturing; just the love these characters express for each other. This is something you just don't readily see in fiction written by, about and for African people.

GET: Plus you don't see us openly expressing our love for each other out on the street.

JEH: Exactly. PArticularly when it come to fellas like Raheim.

GET: What was the response of the Black hetero press to B-boy...?

JEH: Just like the white press, it's been laced with contempt and condecension. For most of the white gay reviewers, I was dismissed as a reverse racist. They said that I don't write about ordinary Black men.

GET: Oh really? Did they provide any examples?

JEH: Well, I guess they wanted the Black men that they would probably pick up as trade in a park. And they said, well, he's no James Baldwin. Yo! I ain't tryin to be. I'm James Earl Hardy. Hello! And you can even still see it in the coverage of both myself and 2nd Time Around.

Because, number one, B-boy Blues challenged the idea of who the lesbian and gay community is; two, who Black gay men are; and three, whether or not we all actually get along or not naturally, there were a lot of white lesbians and gay men who had problems with this story.

In terms of the Black hetero press, what little coverage I did get was quite favorable, surprisingly. But, unfortunately, it was mired in pathology. What most of those publications did was sit back and wait to see what white heterosexuals had to say. So, once again it was one of those deals where they said, we'll wait for the white folks to tell us it's okay for us to feature this Brother in our publication.

GET: Couldn't that also be in part because the Black hetero press does not know our community?

JEH: Oh yes. There were also a few reviews done by a Black hetero man. And why they would choose a Black heterosexual man to review it, I questioned.

GET: Do you think you would have gotten a fairer shake if a woman had reviewed it?

JEH: I think it would have been a little bit easier for a woman just to get through the sex scenes themselves. Most of those Brothers stated in their reviews that, well, I had to skip over the very pornographic sex scenes.

And that's another thing, too, that I was told so many times, that the sex in B-Boy Blues was pornographic. My thing has always been, to me, sex without content, sex without depth, is "sexploitation." It's sex for sex' sake.

GET: It sounds like they just read and said, since they'd dismissed homosexuals, then, of course, any sex would have been pornographic?

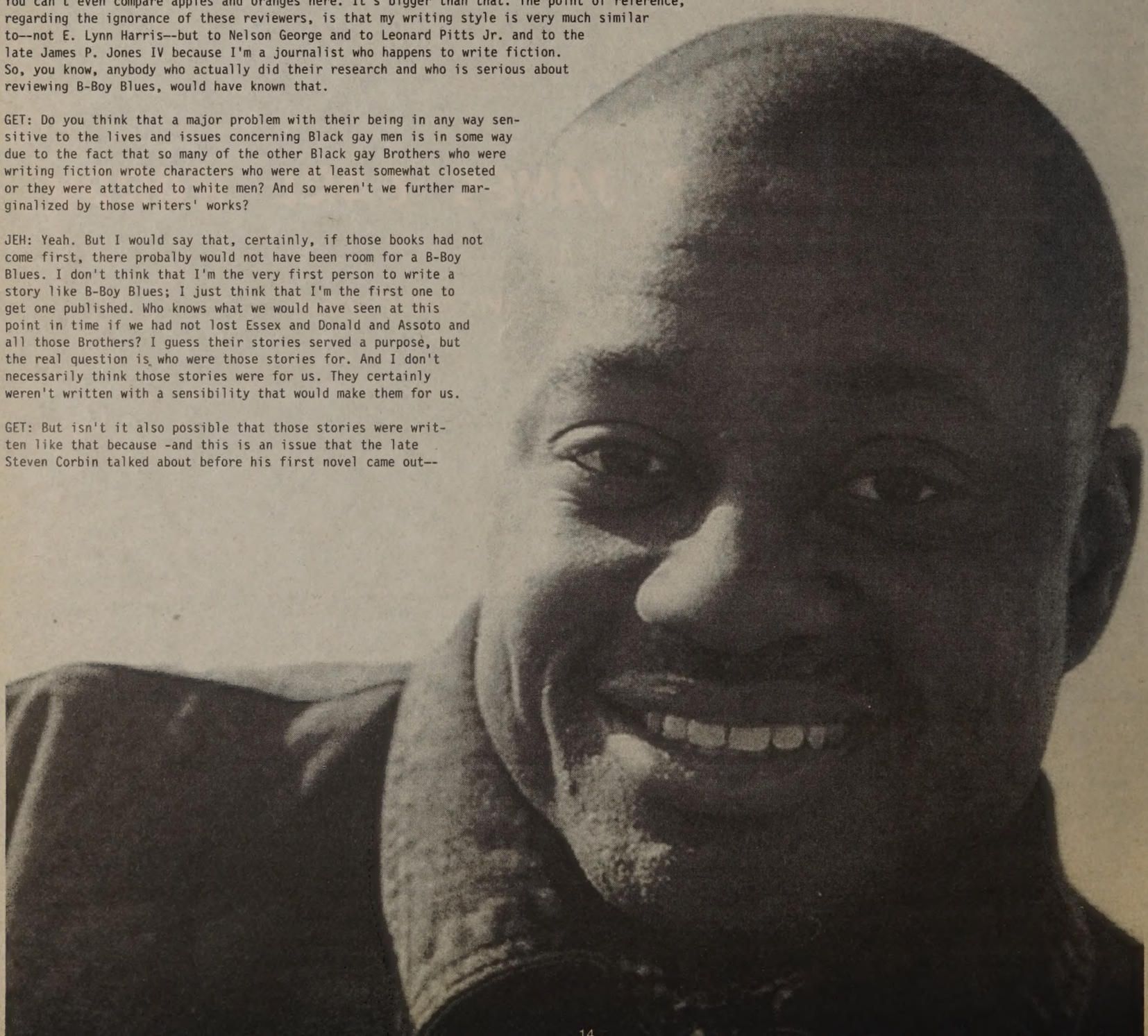
JEH: Un huh. So, I've gotten it from all ends. And every single one of those folks brought up E. Lynn [Harris], which, in a sense, marginalized both of us because the comparisons were bogus and tired. The only things he and I have in common are that we're both Black and gay. We're two totally different people from two totally different backgrounds with two totally different writing styles who tell two totally different types of tales about the lives that some gay and bi-sexual men of African descent lead.

You can't even compare apples and oranges here. It's bigger than that. The point of reference, regarding the ignorance of these reviewers, is that my writing style is very much similar to--not E. Lynn Harris--but to Nelson George and to Leonard Pitts Jr. and to the late James P. Jones IV because I'm a journalist who happens to write fiction. So, you know, anybody who actually did their research and who is serious about reviewing B-Boy Blues, would have known that.

GET: Do you think that a major problem with their being in any way sensitive to the lives and issues concerning Black gay men is in some way due to the fact that so many of the other Black gay Brothers who were writing fiction wrote characters who were at least somewhat closeted or they were attatched to white men? And so weren't we further marginalized by those writers' works?

JEH: Yeah. But I would say that, certainly, if those books had not come first, there probalby would not have been room for a B-Boy Blues. I don't think that I'm the very first person to write a story like B-Boy Blues; I just think that I'm the first one to get one published. Who knows what we would have seen at this point in time if we had not lost Essex and Donald and Assoto and all those Brothers? I guess their stories served a purpose, but the real question is who were those stories for. And I don't necessarily think those stories were for us. They certainly weren't written with a sensibility that would make them for us.

GET: But isn't it also possible that those stories were written like that because -and this is an issue that the late Steven Corbin talked about before his first novel came out--



that the publishing world is by and large Anglo, and so they accept what they want us to be seen as; as opposed to who we really are or the way we want to be seen. They publish the kind of barbecue ribs they want us to eat. Know what I'm sayin?

JEH: [laughing] Well, it's very easy for a white editor, regardless of sexual orientation to digest a story in which a Black character is going through a trial or tribulation, is caught up in some pathology and is naturally saved by some white person. And most of those books fell into one of those categories, just like most of these movies right now. They're formulaic, predictable and tired. They have absolutely nothing to do with art, talent and certainly has nothing to do with our reality as African people. Those stories are not for us. But when a story does come out for us like B-Boy Blues, some of us even have a problem with that!

GET: And what is that problem... I mean, for Black gay people.

JEH: I've said it before, but it's just interesting how some of us are so willing to fight for the divine right of white. These numb-from-the-neck-up Negroes. And some of these white gay publications are very crafty. They'll say, well we'll get our resident Negro to do the review because we know he'll do the type of review we want him to. And naturally he did. He trashed the book for daring to challenge the white gay status quo. And for daring to present - EGAD!- a story where Black folks not only love each other, but themselves!

But we know that there are always Black folks in this world who (regardless of sexual orientation) are more than willing to do the shuffle for the white folks. So that was not a surprise to me.

GET: Have you been in contact with any of these people who were trashing the book in their reviews since B-boy Blues blew up?

JEH: No I haven't.

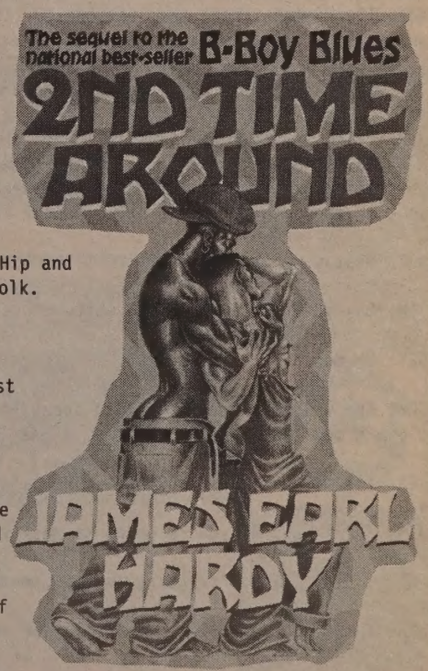
GET: But didn't you go to [gay literary publication, Lambda Rising's literary awards ceremony] the LAMMYs?

JEH: Yeah I went... as a favor to Sasha Alyson [former owner of Alyson Publications]. I did not want to go because of that non-sensical review that that culturally confused Negro did on my book. And that editor at Lambda Book Report so vehemently tried to justify. It is nothing but politics. It seems to me that it's okay for white gay folks to "act up" but if Black folks, regardless of sexual orientation, act up then we're complaining, we're militant, we're too angry, we're paranoid. But, I'm quite sure that most of those people who did trash the book either in print or publicly, are gasping. None of those people expected B-Boy Blues to be the success that it was.

GET: There's a lot less sexin' going on in 2nd Time Around. I also found it to be a lot more introspective.

JEH: I don't think that there's less sex, I think that there's less sex portrayed. They still have sex a lot, it's hinted, it's implied. There is a single chapter in this book, also, where Raheim tells us exactly why he likes to get done. It wasn't a conscious decision to put that aside, I just needed the room to explore him. Much of the criticism lodged against me from the first book was that Raheim was defined by his so-called sex or rather the sex act with Mitchell because actually that's why they came together. I wanted to try him in all his complexity and I certainly could not do that if they were knockin' the boots every single chapter.

GET: I notice you didn't get him to come out. I think most people were expecting that given B-Boy Blues' ending--



JEH: I know most people were expecting that... but it's not going to happen.

GET: Or for him to be outed now that he's a model getting all this attention.

JEH: Well now, that is a possibility. Anything's possible.

GET: Well, there's my segue to the current controversy. HipHop culture is being compared to gay culture. Do you see any validity in that comparison?

JEH: No. For the most part, the erroneous connections that this Brother in the Village Voice was making between Hip Hip and so-called (as he put it) "queer culture" was very much based on Eurocentric ideas of gayness or same gender-loving folk.

GET: So this was a straight guy?

JEH: Allegedly. [Laughs] Quite frankly, the piece was so historically bankrupt and sexually schizophrenic that it just screamed, "I'm a closet case."

GET: Historically bankrupt how?

JEH: He even went back to the Greeks, talking about how their male camraderie was somehow similar to what takes place in the Hip Hop nation among Brothers; this I-love-my-nigga-so-much-that-I'll-kill-him thang. It was preposterous! And not only that, but it was insulting. It was a badly written, badly conceived essay that wanted to say that there is such a thing as a rap artist who is gay or punked out. That's all. The essay was written, I believe, in response to some on-line magazine publishing an anonymous interview with a gay rapper. And over the summertime it was the talk of the so-called Hip Hop nation. Not so much, oh my God, there is a Rap artist who's gay, but who broke the code of silence sort of thing. There's still this conspiracy of silence.
There are definitely people in the Hip Hop nation who are not heterosexual. That is just a given. It's just like with gays in the military: homosexuality is not compatible with military service. It's not so much the problem of homosexuals being in the military. It's that you have a problem with us because of who we are period. With some of these Hip Hop kids, they just have a problem with who we are.

GET: And they learn it so early. I was working with a group of Inner City teenagers yesterday, teaching them some improvisational theater games. One of the games was set up like a press conference or a take off on the old gameshow What's My Line. Anyway, every time one of these kids was a sports or music star, at least five of their "interviewers" asked them if they were gay, whether the question was relevant or not.

JEH: That's fierce.

GET: That negativity associated with being gay has so profoundly permeated our culture that even these little kids think that way. I'm sure you'd agree that so much of Hip Hop and Rap culture perpetuates that ignorance.

JEH: Oh yeah. It does.

GET: And the rest of our culture tolerates it by paying these people too much money.

JEH: ... to pimp for the camera. Hello!

GET: ...then take it home and give it to their boy.

JEH: See. And I have gotten letters from folks in the Hip Hop nation- emcees, dancers and a couple of artists [who said] 'well, thank you for writing this book, but as you well know, I can't come out of the closet. The Brothers just wouldn't understand. I would be literally run out of the nation.' It's really sad that they feel that the type of validation that they need is conditional.

GET: Are our issues really that seperate from the white community?

JEH: Oh, they're very much seperate. And this is another thing that many white homosexuals really don't want to acknowledge and accept. Like most white heterosexual Americans--to a certain extent--realized that Black and white people live in different worlds when OJ Simpson went down; white homosexuals need to understand that we're fighting on two fronts here. And if they are really serious about having a revolution, and that if they really stand for the rights of all people to be protected against all forms of oppression, then they need to put their politics where their words are. I, quite frankly, am tired of hearing the words of Dr. King co-opted and misinterpreted by white homosexuals who probably have never even read a speech by Martin Luther King. And--I'm sure that there are a lot of white homosexuals who won't admit it--they're against Affirmative Action. And we all know that white women are the ones who have benefitted most from Affirmative Action. But it's seen as a Black issue. [So white gays say] naturally its something that we have to be against because those Black people shouldn't be getting special privilidges that we don't have. Like they don't already have special privilidges.

GET: Black people shouldn't be getting four more percent of the pie because then whites would only have 92% of it.

JEH: Thank you. [Whites] have only had Affirmative action for themselves for 400 years, so they're not done yet. Give'em another hundred and they'll be set. I think that same gender loving people of African descent in particular, we have got to be just a little bit more vocal and a little bit more visible. Because, I'm tired of a microphone being stuck in my face and people treating me as if I'm the only Black gay person living in America.

GET: [sarcastically] Oh, but you're not- there's also RuPaul.

JEH: But what do they stick a microphone in RuPaul's face to say? She serves a very different purpose than I do. And, quite frankly, she is, in the eyes of many, she looks like what they think most of us are like. So I am still a fringe element. I am a fluke. I really wasn't supposed to happen. And to this day, two years after B-boy Blues' release, there are people who still refuse to take me or my work or the experiences that I explore in my work seriously.

GET: You mean primarily in the white community?

JEH: I'm talking about white and Black folk.

GET: Are you meeting any kind of resistence or contempt from the Black gay media?

JEH: No, even though there were a few idiotic things written about me in a couple of publications. For some reason, some of us seem to think that you can actually comment about them personally. If you want to know what James Earl Hardy thinks about any particular issue, all you have to do is pick up the phone and call my publisher and set up an interview.

GET: Hopefully the troops are rallying around 2nd Time Around.

JEH: Well, Alyson (Publications) certainly does have a lot of faith in this title. [I laugh because, after the startling sales of B-Boy Blues, they would want to!] I'm happy that none of the other publishers actually came with an offer that was appealing because I was afraid of being gobbled up in some big corporation where I would get lost. Where my work would not be respected, where I would not be heard. But I knew that, given some of the stupid things that some of those editors were saying about 2nd Time Around when I was shopping it around [with other publishers], I knew that they were just not the ones.

GET: What were they saying?

JEH: Oh, you know:where's the white character? Where's the clearly defined bi-sexual character?

GET: Oh God.

JEH: And why does Raheim have to speak in such thick ghetto dialect? And Doubleday had the unmitigated gall to say, well, you know, your work is just a little bit too similar to E. Lynn's. I was like, well, you've jsut insulted both me and E. Lynn. Okay?

GET: They'd obviously not read either of you.

JEH: Thank you. If you're going to mask a stupid comment like that, you've obviously not read my work or his.

GET: ... or, if you're going to say something stupid, at least be educated.

JEH: Thank you! I would definitely have more respect. But I'm unwavering in my sense that I celebrate Black people, Black gay men, Black gay life... I celebrate Blackness period. And no amount of money is going to make me change that focus.

GET: Did they think they could change your mind if they flashed enough money at you?

JEH: Oh no. I was still an oddity to them. Very...special. Something that they had never seen before and probably think that they will never see again. Unfortunately it seems to be true because I'm getting too many horror stories from Brothers who have been putting pen to paper to tell their stories too and they've been rejected left and right.

GET: That's very interesting in light of the success of B-Boy Blues.

JEH: Well, ya see... Folks say all the time that there's a Black gay renaissance going on, but I'm like, a handful of people does not a Black gay literary renaissance make. Iwill be content to call it a renaissance when there are dozens of us out here with work that speaks to many different experiences. Three or four novels ain't gonna cut it. There certainly is a white gay literary renaissance going on. It's not happening to us. But it's that same old there's-only-room-for-one-of-you syndrome. There can be a Michael Cunningham, a David Levitt, a Dale Peck and so on and so on, but there can only be an E. Lynn and a James Earl Hardy.

GET: I think, once again, the issue is one of ignorance. A few months ago I spoke to someone over at PEN Center USA West about a piece I'd chosen to workshop in a master class so that I could expand it as a larger piece. She basically told me that, while she liked the piece a lot, complimented the humor in it, etc., that she saw it as being unpublishable. And I'm thinking, hon, it's already been published and enjoyed! Okay?

JEH: Just think about how many of us have heard that from them. And these Brothers have decided, if it's not going to be published, then why even waste my time working on it because I don't have talent.

GET: But I had to school her a bit on the fact that there are Black gay anthologies out there. She cited Brotherman...

JEH: and that ain't IT.

GET: Then I handed her a copy of...

UNISON: SHADE...

GET: But, once again, the thang with Shade... is that a bunch of Brothers and Sisters got together and put this anthology together. Same thing with Another Country. Do you see this kind of cooperation as being the key for us?

JEH: I think so. We're going to have to creat our own marketing, promoting, publishing and distribution companies to get our work out there... and to nurture each other. We're not nurturing each other because, I think, we've bought into that assimilation schtick. It's all about the dollar. Every man and woman for himself. I got to get mine. And if that means I got to step on you, so be it. And that's not the way you build a literary canvas. I believe that the statistic is that 95% of the men and women in publishing are white.

GET: And out of several hundred literary agents in this country with the major publishers, there are only four or five Black. At least that is my understanding after the PEN West seminar.

JEH: And those people don't know. They are very willing to throw seven figures at a white man or woman who writes stories about us. But when we step up to the plate, they automatically question what we have created. Even Terry [McMillan] has those stories of those publishers who said, well, these characters aren't downtrodden enough. Make them a little more gritty. And I'm still hearing shit like that right now.

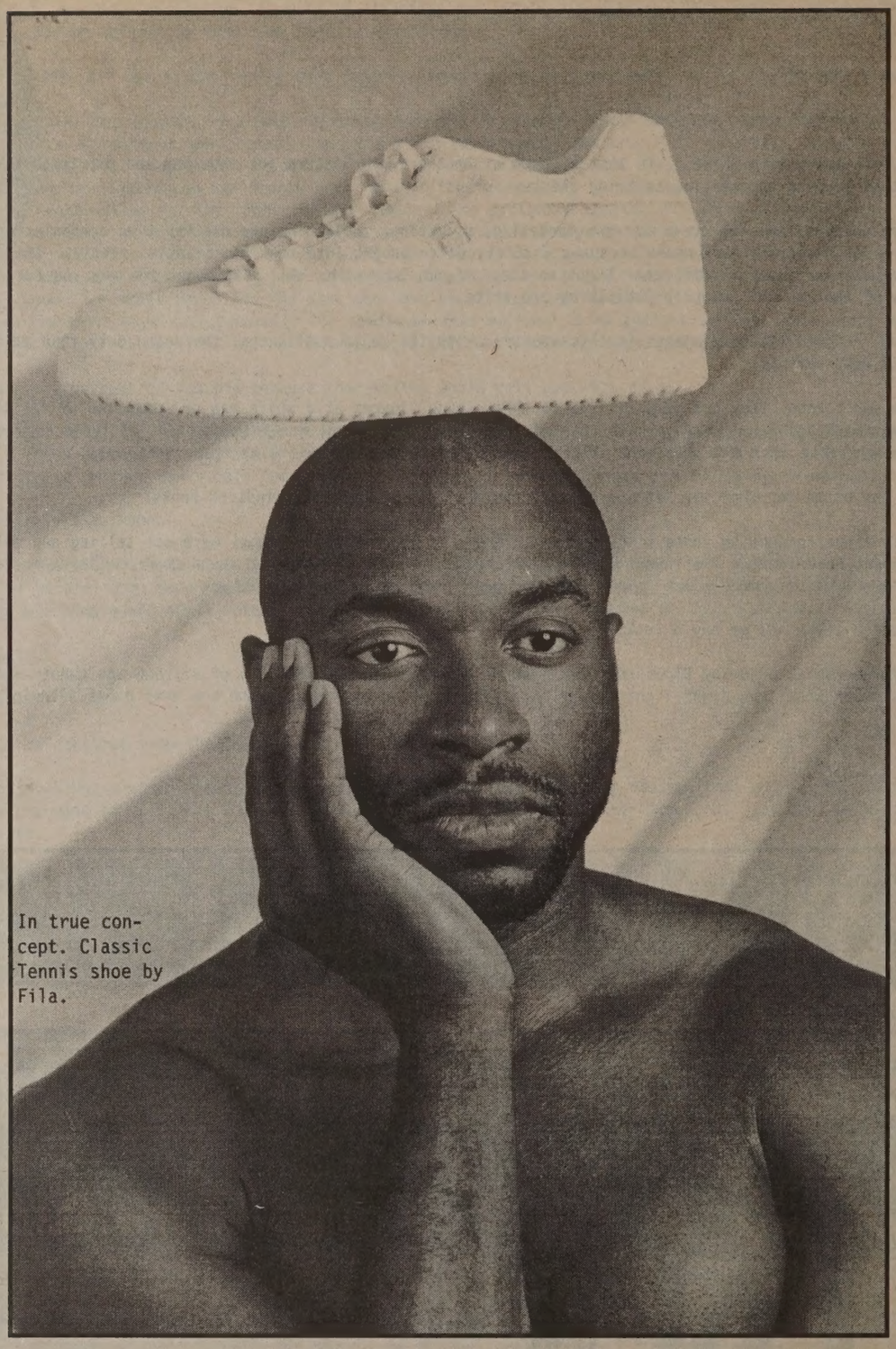
GET: Doesn't some of the blame for that lie with us because too many of us buy those kinds of books?

JEH: They would not continue to publish those kinds of books, Greg, if those kinds of books were not selling and making that kind of money. And that's why people of African descent need to be a little bit more clever in the manner in which they spend their dollars. Instead of going to the bar, Miss Thing, and spend $35 on drinks in an establishment which is not owned by people who look exactly like you...

GET: ... take y'ass outta there and go buy a book!

JEH: Thank you! Buy three copies of B-Boy Blues and give them to Brothers between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one who are trying to come to grips with who they are. And you never know, you might light a fire. And that person might just become the next James Baldwin!

Head Trip on a Foot Flight



In true concept. Classic Tennis shoe by Fila.

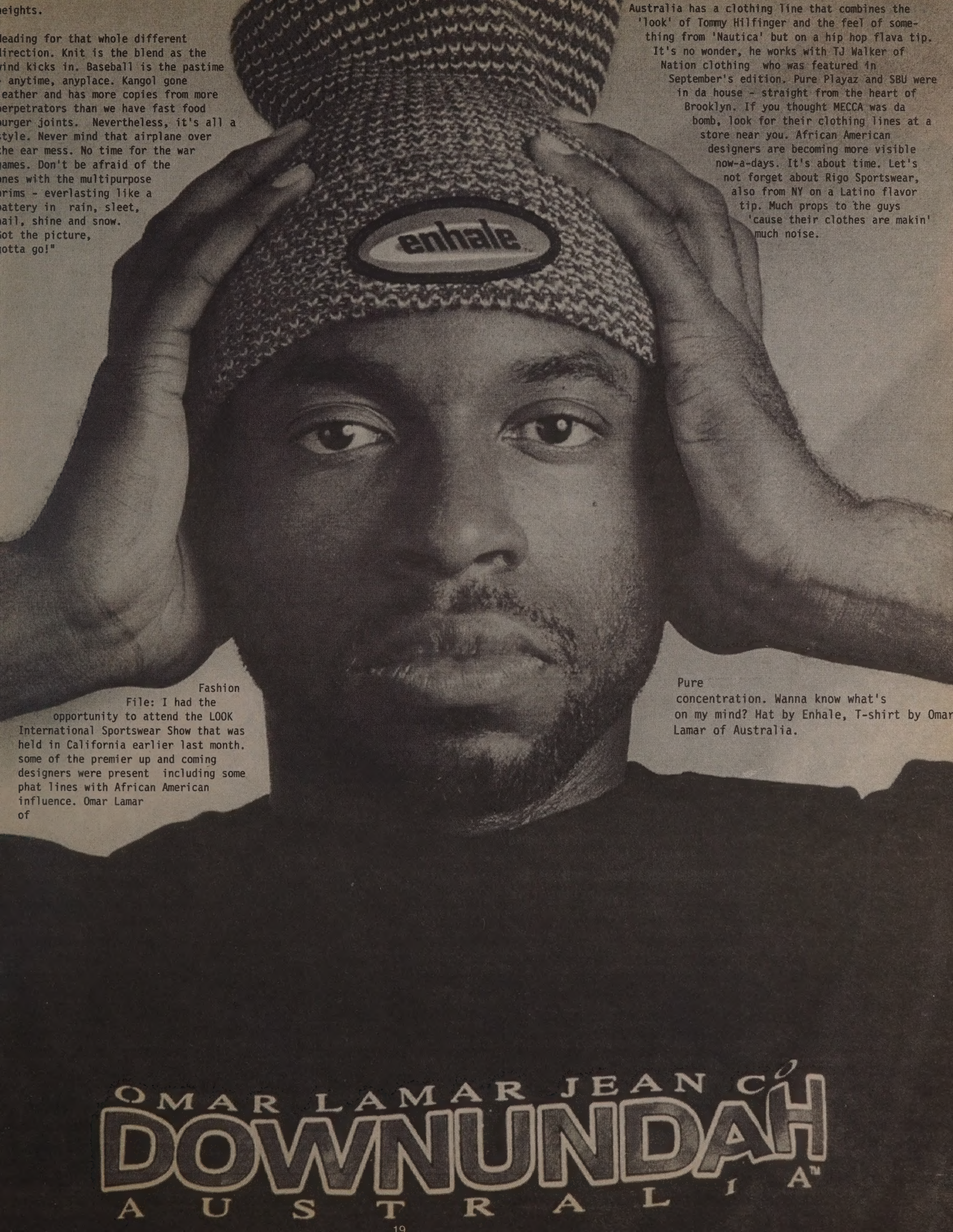
Commentary by Orlando Robinson
Photography by Gene Golden
Model, Jay Buxton

What goes through my mind when I think about shoes and hats:

"Walking to the beat of a different drummer in my 'hood which ain't no slum. Know where I'm comin' from? Get off me chump. Got a date and can't be late with the court and some shorts with my boyz and our B-ball toy. Fila, Nike, Reebok. High top, mid court, low. Cross trainer, tennis, or slip on. Who says athletes are dumb? Wearin' the right gear is like a corner game of nic- nack. Woo-hah, got who in check?

From house slipper to dress shoe, it's time for work with no play. Burgundy, black or brown, cooperate knows no other bounds. Loafer or a classic oxford. I a---at least not until I prepare myself for praises later on. No two- tone or striped here.

Casual on the low as I go down to the mall for some quiet time. Moccasins are played out but Eastland's got me going. No aces for these decks I got on. Style and comfort rule this game of foot play. Ba ba boot man. Combat, military, or shoe style. Just walkin' on by. Hope the stitching don't give. Rubber, who stole the sole? Logging went out with the environmental laws. Steppin' on up to new



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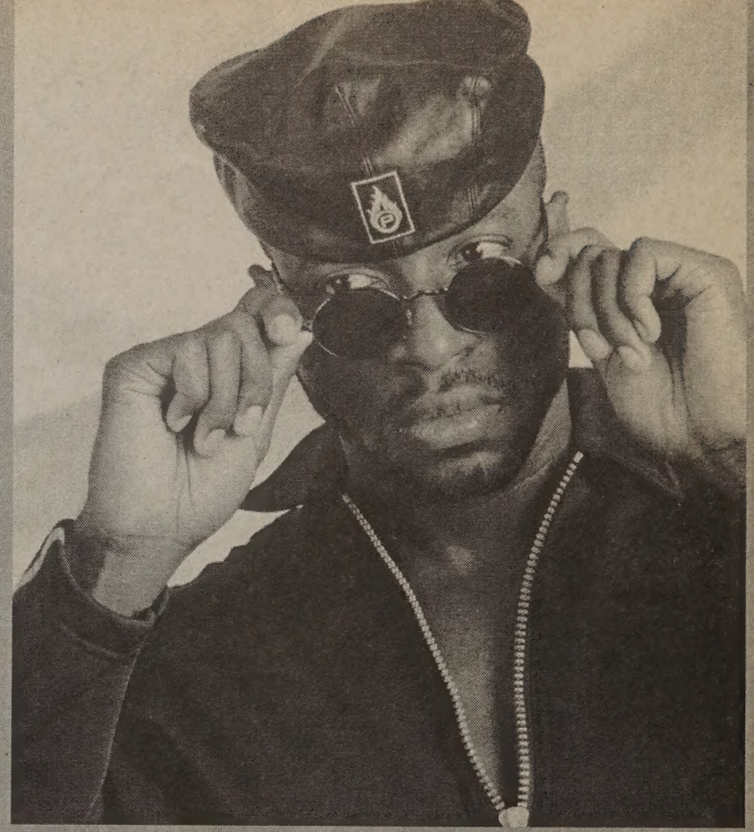
hail, shine and snow.
Got the picture,
gotta go!"

Australia has a clothing line that combines the 'look' of Tommy Hilfinger and the feel of something from 'Nautica' but on a hip hop flava tip. It's no wonder, he works with TJ Walker of Nation clothing who was featured in September's edition. Pure Playaz and SBU were in da house - straight from the heart of Brooklyn. If you thought MECCA was da bomb, look for their clothing lines at a store near you. African American designers are becoming more visible now-a-days. It's about time. Let's not forget about Rigo Sportswear, also from NY on a Latino flavor tip. Much props to the guys 'cause their clothes are makin' much noise.

Fashion File: I had the opportunity to attend the LOOK International Sportswear Show that was held in California earlier last month. some of the premier up and coming designers were present including some phat lines with African American influence. Omar Lamar of

Pure concentration. Wanna know what's on my mind? Hat by Enhale, T-shirt by Omar Lamar of Australia.



Strong ties. Vermont Black Boot by Trezeta.

Black zip front top and hat by Protek.

SKYWALK

THE MARRIAGE OF CARLOS AND WAYNE
by
Stanley Bennett Clay

"And we shall become one to share all the days of our lives...Rev. Carlos Anthony Jones and Mr. Wayne Orlando Byrd request the honor of your presence at their Holy Union on Saturday, the 10th of August of 1996 at 1:00 in the afternoon, Hollywood United Methodist Church, 6817 Franklin Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90028, Reception following ceremony."

Hollywood United Methodist is like a grand monastery in Thunderdome. A serenity within the calm within the eye of the storm. It sits incongruously on the corner of Franklin & Highland, an old world Cathedral surrounded by new world decay.

A huge red AIDS memorial ribbon drapes the west side of its classic facade while around the corner ladies and boyz of the night negotiate ass for cash, food and/or crack cocaine. But within the walls of Hollywood United Methodist, the promise fulfilled is for real. The storybook castle-like foretell edifice that causes even rush hour traffic to slow down and stare in awe at all it's otherworld majesty, is just a hint of the beauty that is inside.

Spanish-inspired walkways curve through small gardens and under adobe archways that invite serenity and humility. The Sanctuary, whose high ceiling seems to extend to the very heavens, is a careful meditation on artistry provided by many faithful united in one purpose, to capture the smile of God.

And so, away from the outside world, but for all the world to see, and with the blessings of the All Spiritual Smiling Presence, a small gathering of friends and family members bore witness to the marriage of Carlos and Wayne.

"Our marriage is a bonding of the souls and a uniting with God and a coming together before our family and friends and making a statement that we love each other and that we will be with each other from this day forward," Reverend Carlos would later state.

Bach's "Jesus' Joy of Man's Desiring" echoed gently through the ancient Holy space in the sweet voice of Ms. Pat Harrold while handsome and dignified attendants---family friend Roosevelt Flournery and Wayne's younger brother Marvin Byrd Jr.---performed the candle lighting ritual.

The Reverend Nancy Wilson approached the alter and faced the audience with a calm joy that must come from a duty such as this. It was as if she spoke with each of us gathered, through sparkling eyes and a Bible held tightly to her, and yet a word was not yet spoken. Only the sweet sound of a Gladys Knight recording of "Somehow He Loves Me" was heard, unperceptively at first, seemingly without a beginning, it was suddenly, gently, spiritually, just there.

Then down the aisle the wedding entourage, two-by-two, proceeded, coming to the alter and joining Reverend Wilson, beautifully dressed Brothers and Sisters whose bright faces could not stop smiling, who's hearts, like many of us, were already overflowing with tears that would not be held back, especially when Mr. Derek Campbell sang "I Will Follow You".

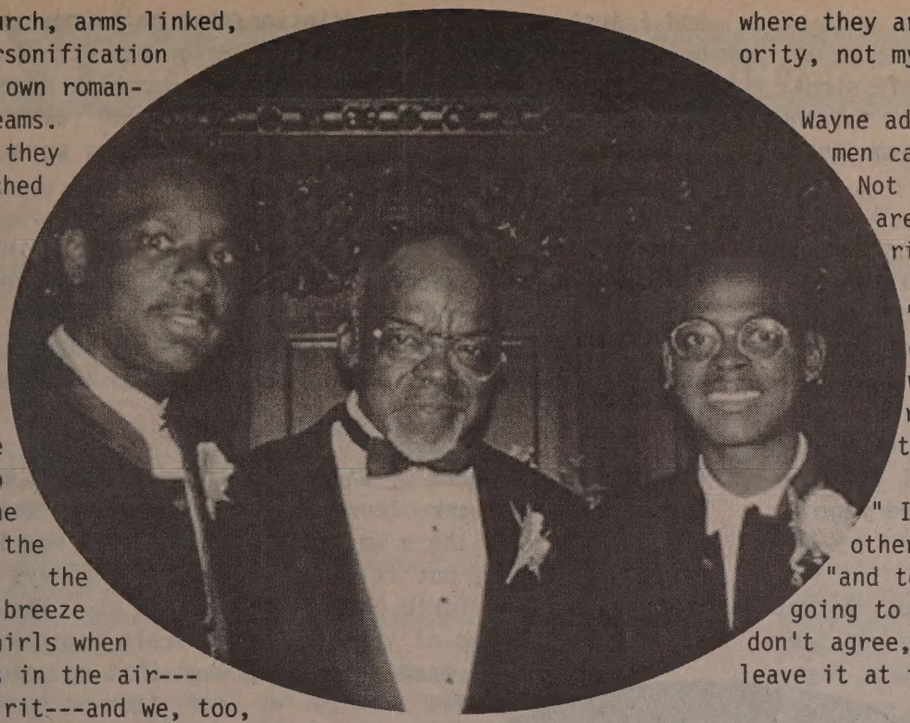
"My family was really supportive.," Wayne remembers fondly. " Whenever any snarls came up in planning the ceremony they were willing to step in and take up the slack.

" I think they are more respectful of the relationship now. Not that they weren't respectful before, it's just that they recognize us more as a couple. I mean it's not like Carlos is just my boyfriend."

And then the congregation rose and all eyes were focused on the handsome, nervous couple at the back of

THE MARRIAGE OF CARLOS AND WAYNE

Written byStanley Bennett Clay Photographed by Matthew Pearson Jr.



the church, arms linked, the personification of our own romantic dreams. And as they approached us, passed us on their way to the alter, we were able to feel the surge, the energy, the gentle breeze that whirls when love is in the air--- The Spirit---and we, too, were in the glory.

And so they reached the alter and received the Reverend's admonitions, counseling and scriptural sharings. Wayne began to cry, overwhelmed, overcome. And so Carlos held his hand and looked into his eyes and gave him the strength they'd been giving each other for more than five years. And it was all good.

"I love his mind," Wayne would later say. "He's very intelligent and he's very straight forward. "

By the time the ceremony was over, not only were two Brothers-in-love publicly declaring their love, but many other Brothers and Sisters-in-love would leave this place convinced that a true, publicly declared, God-recognized relationship is indeed a possibility, that within the circle of love's beauty, the muck and mire of the outside world cannot tarnish it, or judge it, or destroy it. This beautiful old church stands proudly and firmly in the center of tinsel town, yet it is undisturbed in its purpose, and it stands as a testament that despite the pain gathered outside its gates, (and as the Bishop Carl Bean, founder of the predominately Black lesbian and gay Unity Fellowship National Movement says so often,) 'God is love and love is for everyone.'

"I was overwhelmed that my Dad was there, "Carlos recalls almost two months after the ceremony. "That really just made it for me. My dad and I have always had a special relationship. Still, I didn't really know what to expect from him, but he just made it really special for me. And I had my younger brother there. He was the DJ at the reception. My cousins were there too.

"My mom and my brother are very homophobic and they didn't come, but for me, that's okay. I respect people for where they are. Wayne is my family now and he is my priority, not my mother and not my brother."

Wayne added: "It shows the public that two Black gay men can do this and have a long-term relationship. Not everyone is in a place of singlehood. There are a lot of people who want and do get married."

"And we're two very strong Black men and oftentimes we butt heads," Carlos adds, "but we have learned that in our relationship to respect each other's differences, and sometimes we have to yield.

" It's about learning how to get along with each other and to respect each other," said Wayne, "and to understand and realize that you're not going to always agree on everything, and when you don't agree, you have to learn to agree to disagree, and leave it at that, and no hard feelings.

And now with the ceremony behind them Wayne and Carlos are going about life as business as usual, as the married couple they've always considered themselves to be, especially in light of the 5 years prior to the ceremony of living together and loving together.

Home for Wayne and Carlos is a comfortable old-world apartment in the Wilshire District of Los Angeles where many Black and Latino lesbian and gay couples live and work. Their spacious and well-kept living space is filled with comfortable furnishings in dark woods and warm colors, and in every corner one sees knickknacks and mementos and family pictures and items that hint that this is a couple that likes to spend

a lot of time at home.

Carlos, an ordained minister, and Wayne, a professional photographer, had spent much time thinking and talking about that day when they would make a public commitment.

"I was at a Baptist church," Carlos remembers, " and there was no way that [our ceremony] was going to happen at a Baptist church. We had planned on doing it at a hotel, but I've been in church all my life and I wanted a church wedding, and I decided that I would refuse to let society push me out of my home, and church is my home. Then I joined MCC [Metropolitan Community Church] and I found out that they did Holy Unions there. We were going to do it irregardless, somewhere or another. I think we started seriously talking about it in our third year together."

In fact, it was during an interview on The Beat, a popular L.A. radio station whose topic one morning was same-sex marriages, that Carlos ended up coming out to his church.

I had been the pastor of my former church for 9 years, and they sent me out with a bang when I left there. They "heard" the Interview on The BEAT about our upcoming marriage and it was suddenly: "Reverend Jones? Oh no! No! No! No!" They turned. These were the very people that said that they loved me. Now, I've gotten to a certain place in my life where I accept people where they are. Now if that's where you are, then that's fine, and I need to move on."

Carlos is now a member of Metropolitan Community Church, a church that, for more than 3 decades, has been a spiritual shelter for same-gender loving people, and although Carlos wants Wayne to become a member as well, he knows that that decision must be an individual one.

" Right now I'm visiting MCC," Wayne explains. "I'm checking them out. I'm going through a change of church now. I was unhappy over there at my former church because of the Methodist stand on gays in the church, but after I talked with my pastor I felt I could stay there because he was accepting and didn't have a problem, but as time went on, I realized that I was not as happy as I thought I could be, as comfortable as I thought I could be, so I'm leaving that church at the end of the year because, even though [my pastor] is accepting of [my homosexuality] the church, as a whole, is not.. And I'm not going to be a part of an organization that doesn't like me. It was a tough decision. Carlos wanted me to make the move earlier but I I wasn't ready."

"He made the decision to stay there," Carlos remembers, " and I just came to the conclusion that he'll move when he's ready to move. Although his pastor was accepting, you're dealing with society, and the church is made up of society. And this society condemns us. These folks smiling up in his face every Sunday morning---if they were to find out he was gay, they would turn on him."

Recently, Wayne and Carlos attended the NBGLLF's annual Brother-2-Brother Retreat where they held a workshop on intimacy between men. As workshop facilitators and, more importantly, as a long term committed Black couple, they were constantly asked: 'What does it take to make it last?'

"The answer is 'work'," Carlos emphasized without hesitation. "Constant work. There are always changes. When I was growing up , there was this saying that a marriage was always 50-50, but it's not 50-50, it's always fluctuating back and forth between the two of you. You see, as long as the two of you are on the scale together you can balance each other out, when that relationship shifts over to my side, then it has to be shifted over to his side so that it can balance out, so that it can work, can function.

"For me, it's mutual respect," Wayne says, " allowing and encouraging change in my spouse, and being excited about change."

Carlos, referring to Wayne as " probably the most compassionate man I've ever met in my whole life", loves Wayne for his gentleness and his childlike spirit, while Wayne loves the fact that he gets to be silly with Carlos, something very few people see from the usually soft spoken, introspective photographer.

And so now, with the experience and the blessing of many years of togetherness, and a ceremony that declared their love to the world, Reverend Carlos Anthony Jones and Mr. Wayne Orlando Byrd have shown that they do not need man's law to grant them what God has already given.

Life is good.

Is There a Difference Between Democrats & Republicans?

"When I ran for President in 1992, I told you about my vision for America—a vision you were and are very much a part of. I'm especially proud to be the first President ever to endorse a civil rights bill that specifically includes gay and lesbian Americans. I support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, because I believe in the fundamental values of fairness and equality—values that are at the very heart and soul of the creed that unites us as a nation."

"Those who would seek to legalize discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation are gravely mistaken about the values that make our nation strong....this is not an issue of special rights."
President Bill Clinton

"I oppose the special interest gay agenda that runs from gays in the military and reaches as far as to suggest special status for sexual orientation under federal civil rights statutes."
Sen. Bob Dole

President Bill Clinton's Record

- ✔ Endorsed ENDA - (Employment Non-Discrimination Act)
- ✔ Appointed over 100 openly lesbian and gay officials to Administration
- ✔ Appointed 2 openly gay Cabinet Assistant Secretaries requiring Senate confirmation
- ✔ Appointed first openly lesbian federal judge
- ✔ Appointed two Supreme Court Justices that provided crucial votes against Colorado's anti-gay Amendment Two
- ✔ Initiated sexual orientation non-discrimination policies in all non-military Cabinet agencies and departments
- ✔ Lifted the ban on security clearances based on sexual orientation
- ✔ Increased funding for HIV/AIDS 40%, and increased Ryan-White funding 108%
- ✔ Fought to protect Medicaid and Medicare as federal entitlement programs
- ✔ Initiated research on on teen suicide and sexual orientation
- ✔ Issued an Executive Order ending the gag-rule on abortion counselling
- ✔ Issued an Executive Order lifting the ban on fetal tissue research
- ✔ Passed the Family & Medical Leave Act
- ✔ Passed the Brady Bill and the Assault Weapons Ban
- ✔ Strongly favors a woman's right to choose

Senator Bob Dole's Record

- ✘ Opposes the inclusion of sexual orientation in federal civil rights statutes
- ✘ Voted against the confirmation of openly lesbian Roberta Achtenberg as Assistant Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development
- ✘ Voted against lifting the ban on gays in the military
- ✘ Voted for Sen. Jesse Helms' amendment to the Ryan-White Care act to cut off funding to gay community health organizations
- ✘ Voted to freeze Ryan-White spending at 1995 levels despite increasing case loads of people with HIV and AIDS
- ✘ Vowed to end Medicaid as an entitlement program and turn control over to the states without federal guarantees or oversight
- ✘ Voted for Helms' amendment to cut off federal funds to local schools with programs aimed at preventing anti-gay violence, HIV transmission, and gay teen suicide
- ✘ Strongly opposed ending the gag-rule on abortion counselling
- ✘ Strongly opposed lifting the ban on fetal tissue research
- ✘ Voted against the Family & Medical Leave Act
- ✘ Voted against the Brady Bill and the Assault Weapons Ban
- ✘ Strongly opposes a woman's right to choose

You Bet There Is!

STONEWALL DEMOCRATIC CLUB
Endorsements - Presidential Election Nov. 5, 1996

President of the United States — **William Jefferson Clinton** — **Vice President of the U.S.** — **Albert Gore Jr.**

CONGRESS	CONGRESS	STATE SENATE	ASSEMBLY	ASSEMBLY	ASSEMBLY	ASSEMBLY
24 Brad Sherman	33 Lucillle Roybal-Allard	19 John Birke	36 David Cochran	44 Jack Scott	51 Edward Vincent	59 Brent Decker
25 Diane Trautman	34 Esteban Torres	21 Adam Schiff	38 Jon Lauritzen	45 Antonio Villaraigosa	52 Carl Washington	60 Susan Amaya
26 Howard Berman	35 Maxine Waters	23 Tom Hayden	39 Tony Cardenas	46 Louis Caldera	53 Debra Bowen	61 Paul Vincent Avila
27 Doug Kahn	36 Jane Harman	25 Teresa Hughes	40 Robert Hertzberg	47 Kevin Murray	54 Gerrie Schipske	L.A. DISTRICT ATTORNEY
29 Henry Waxman	37 Juanita McDonald	27 Betty Karnette	41 Sheila Kuehl	48 Rod Wright	55 Richard Floyd	Gil Garcetti
30 Xavier Becerra	38 Rick Zbur	29 Tommy Randle	42 Wally Knox	49 Diane Martinez	56 Sally Havice	
32 Julian Dixon	REMEMBER TO VOTE.... YOUR'E LIFE MAY DEPEND ON IT!		43 Scott Wildman	50 Martha Escutia	57 Martin Gallegos	

BALLOT MEASURES and INITIATIVES

204	YES	Safe, Clean, Reliable Water Supply Act	210	YES	Livable Wage Initiative Minimum Wage Increase	216	NO POSITION	Health Care Consumer Protection Initiative HMO Regulation & Consumer Protection
205	NP	Youthful & Adult Offenders Facilities Bond Construction & Renovation of County Jails	211	YES	Retirement Income Protection & Security	217	YES	Reinstate Top Income Tax Brackets
206	YES	Veterans Bond Act of 1996 Low Interest Farm & Home Loans	212	NO	Campaign Contributions & Spending Limits CALPIRG, Repeals Gift & Honoraria Limits	218	NO	Voter Approval of Local Government Taxes. Limits on Fees, Assessments & Charges
207	YES	Attorneys Fees, Frivolous Lawsuits Bans Restrictions on Negotiating Fees	213	NO	Limitations on Recovery to Uninsured Motorists, Felons, and Drunk Drivers	BB	YES	LAUSD Bond Measure Repair & Renovation of School Facilities
208	NO	Campaign Contributions & Spending Limits Common Cause Initiative	214	YES	Health Care Consumer Protection Initiative (SEIU) HMO Regulation, Ends Gag Rules	K	YES	City of LA Assessment District Land acquisition and Park Improvements
209	NO	California Civil Rights Initiative Bans Affirmative Action Programs	215	YES	Medical Use of Marijuana Physician Prescription Required	AA	YES	LA Community College Assessment District Landscape, Lighting & Recreation Improvement

We need your help to make Nov. 5th the biggest lesbian & gay voter turnout ever!

for information or to volunteer call (213) 969-1735 or Email: StonwalDem@aol.com

Stonewall Democratic Club ▼ 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #325 ▼ West Hollywood, CA 90046 ▼ ID# 800995

MR. LEE (SURREPTITIOUSLY) GOES TO WASHINGTON

GET ON THE BUS

a film review by Gregory Eugene Travis
Art & Entertainment Editor

Word of warning- bring a loooong book.

In his latest tour d'America Africana, Six Acres and a Mule mogul, Spike Lee, bums a ride on a charter bus full of Brothers headed for the Million Man March. Along the way, they learn about the diversity of the Black male experience from each other. Characters we've never, ever seen in film before. Like the absentee father (Thomas Jefferson Byrd) who is literally chained to his vaguely thuggish, criminally abandoned son (Deaundre Bonds) who just needs male understanding and companionship; the older male spiritual leader (Charles Dutton); the fatherly "fallen angel" type embodied by Ossie Davis in a typically fine performance; Andre Braugher as Flip, a machismic wannabe actor sweating life out while awaiting his big break; Roger Smith as Gary, the South Central LA police officer/tragic mulatto and many, many (way too many) others.

And then there's the gay couple. Their depiction should forever lay to rest absolutely any and every rumor about Spike Lee being gay, bi or what have you. The Brother must be (and I do mean "must" as in "gots 2 be") het'ro! Because there is no way under the sun any self-respecting Africentric homosexual Brotherman would have read this script and not clocked the writer, Reggie Rock Bythewood, for setting up this gay relationship and then blowing the opportunity to really make a greater statement than the one that homosexuals are part of the Black Diaspora, too.

To give credit where it is due, though, lovers Randall and Kyle (solidly and intelligently played by Harry Lennix and Isiah Washington) are not of the cardboard cutout, screaming queen variety. It is also established early on that they are out of the closet and have also reached a crisis point in their relationship exacerbated by their contrasting personalities and expectations of each other. Yes, the relationship is doomed from the jump.

But, credit due and paid in full... ya know.. when the fellas (you know, the REAL ones) are hanging out doing the bonding thing -singing a merry little song about their own prowess as lovers, pondering the issue of romantic exclusivity, etc- Kyle and Randall inexplicably disappear on a moving bus. Hmmm... I don't see David Copperfield's name listed in the credits. Maybe he made that conveniently disappear, too.

Throughout, Reggie Rock Bythewood's right-intentioned but wrong-headed script is as riddled with clichés as a reformed gangster's corpse after the inevitable ambush. Missive after missive flies but none quite hit their mark, instead ricocheting off the intended target and hitting another. In one scene, for example, one of Flip's homophobic remarks to one of the gay characters, Kyle, ignites a fight. The gay character wins the fight, thus gaining Braugher's (and presumably every other male breeder's) pathetic little respect. But, wasn't the established theme that we come together as Brothers to celebrate our humanity as diametrically opposed to our brutality?

Unfortunately, too, each character's story is given as much weight as all the others. Even under Spike Lee's nimble direction and top-notch performances from the entire cast, this bus moans and groans under all that weight, barely crawling into DC.

"How come we don't have films that uplift us?" Andre Braugher asks in the production notes. "It's because we haven't made them." I would disagree. I found films like "Sankofa," "Daughters of the Dust," and "To Sleep With Anger" to be uplifting, refreshing films. The problem is not that we don't want to make them, but that an all-star cast has to be assembled to get the cash necessary to make them and then when we do, our people tend too often to support the smash, bang, shoot'em ups or trite comedies instead. Too, few films get their financing on an idea for a movie rather than with a completed script, or have a recent major historical event to celebrate as their selling point.

And that brings me to this film's core problem. The Million Man March was indeed an epic event which, hopefully, history will look back upon smilingly, a seminal event which profoundly changed America for the better. My guess is that, cynical as we can sometimes be (and for good reason given our history in this country), most of us expect good things to come from The March. However, Get On The Bus depicts an event so recent that, although it's impact has been mightily felt by most, it's more powerful resonance is as yet unknowable in any profoundly, meaningful way.

Even now, after 1992's Los Angeles rebellion following the Rodney King trial verdicts where bones were broken, flesh wrent, homes and businesses destroyed as well as alliances formed in its aftermath; some four years later we are still assessing the damage, the re growth. The bones reunite, the flesh mends, but the deeper scars of loss and derailment remain invisible, faceless, secreted away. In turn, the healing salves of understanding, newly kindled friendships and long-to-last alliances don't make known their graces quickly either. Get On The Bus is the first rest stop on our lengthy ride toward knowing the full impact of the Million Man March.

Good intentions do not a great film make. Get On The Bus does have many merits despite its ultimately disappointing lack of meaningfulness or great significance. As mentioned before, these actors are so fine and giving that they could read from the phone book-to twist a phrase- and you'd be enthralled. I've mentioned Andre Braugher before, too, but the Brother does steal many a scene with his whirlwind energy. The whole ensemble creates so vividly their environs, whether it's yesterday morning's LA or the contemporary antiquity and humiliation of being stopped for no reason and searched by a redneck officer in the rural South, that you almost forget their oftimes innumerable other fine performances.

Spike Lee's direction is at once passionate and subtle. The odd camera angles and tricks so distracting in some of his previous (and sometimes more satisfying) films give way to a grittier, edgier feel. He moves from character to character, hungrily grabbing snippets of dialogue like a well scrubbed, rough mannered, enthusiastic rogue socking away a few biscuits at the family reunion picnic; a li'l sump'm-sump'm to munch on later. Elliott Davis' cinematography and Terence Blanchard's score are equally warm, lush, inviting.

They all make you want to get onboard. If only we were clear on the destination.

Curiously, the closer the bus gets to DC, the slower the going gets, the more improbable the action and the more sparse the humor (with the notable exception of an hilariously over the top scene with Wendell Pierce as a Black Republican professional who uses the "N word" like he thinks he's the KKK's Grand Wizard). And true to a real cross country journey, by the time the fellas get off the bus, many in the audience were groaning 'it's about time'.

I won't give away the ending, but I will say that it screams "do the right thing!" and everybody does, which is even worse. The implication is that the march magically, absolutely and radically transformed EVERY SINGLE BROTHER who attended. Surely it did several. But magic is as rare as absolutes. And warm fuzzy feelings tend to leave hangovers once the bruise from reality's hard, heavy fist fills itself bluesy in.

Get On The Bus fails to paint an honest face on The March. That face is the one with pursed lips waiting to smile at progress, ready to compliment and trumpet success. The face with uncertain but hopeful eyes, equally prepared to glisten with hope or in disappointment. The ancient baby face of a people just as ready to face the "rising sun of a new day begun" today as we were when we sired and nurtured mankind, millennium long lost from memory.

Most distressingly, there are no seats on this bus for those of us who have no reason to atone. Those of us who have been there for our Sisters and for our Brothers. You know- like the brother of the Prodigal Son who toiled in the field and kept the family afloat while the other brother was out there getting his swerve on and doing his thang. And now that the prodigal returns, we've been politely thanked and unceremoniously dismissed.

Ah yes, there is the dais. We could get up and speak, but isn't the dais reserved for those who also enjoy singing their own praises? Taking that space would desecrate our own hearths. And so, the rest of us toil in anonymity. What a slap in the face that in Get On The Bus (and, yes from society's response in general to The March) the only Brothers who had nothing to atone for towards Black women were the gay characters and the Black Republican driving in perverse reverse gear.

Just as the Million Man March asked Black men in this country to make a commitment to do better toward Black women, so, too it asked that we treat each other better. That we not only be better Brothers, but that we commit to being better brothers to one another. An excellent place for American men of African descent to begin would be at the opening moment of the intended embrace.

Entertaining as it often is, compelling as the situation sometimes is, Get On The Bus could use a few more seats. But go see it. Re-live that precious moment of a year ago when we were-- so many of us at once--a yearning soul of one. This alone is worth the admission.

Maybe good intentions are enough, after all.

This is the House That Patti Built

Don't Block the Blessings: Revelations of A Lifetime
By Patti LaBelle with Laura Randolph
Riverhead Books, 300 Pages

Book review by Orlando Robinson
Fashion and Music Editor

"If you're afraid to die, you will not be able to live."
- James Baldwin

After many years of ugly duckling insecurities and emotional disappointments,
Patti LaBelle has transmorgrified into a graceful swan of self-fulfillment and triumph.
Delivering a sure-fire plan of survival, Patti, in this very readable and inspiring page-turner, ultimately accepts 'inner' beauty as her prized possession.

With a new make-up line and a new perfume in the wings, and this new book on the shelves, Diva LaBelle has finally dismissed the negative blueprints from others and is here today to offer a solid, sturdy foundation of self-development and self-gratification. The untimely deaths of her three sisters and best friend and of both her parents have been well documented, but no one knew that Patti's stage performances, confessed in this tome, were inverted exorcisms; eulogies, if you will, for a funeral not yet held. Her own funeral. Death seemed to have had her in a chokehold. Not until the big 5 - 0 did she realize her true reason for being here.

"Love is understanding, love is forgiveness, love is protection".

She recalls, berates and forgives herself for cursing her sister Barbara out on stage in the middle of a performance because Barbara was not singing in harmony---believing that things are going to get better without searching for the true cause only sets one up for exclusive disappointment, she learns. Personal growth cannot take place if individually we do not forgive ourselves and seek introspective fruition.

True happiness can never be obtained on the backs of others, a testament easily applied to the final break up of the dynamic group 'LaBelle' of the seventies - an important part of her life. Giving and sharing one's gifts only keep the blessings coming; nothing's ever gained by hoarding. The interior of all blessings and advancement relates to this concept of giving.

From the rape by her mother's boyfriend to the attempted rape by famed recording artist Jackie Wilson, Patti pens tails on more than a few donkeys gone to Hollywood. But everything happens for a reason --- people coming into our lives, bad incidents, good fortunes-- for 'Divine Guidance', according to Patti.

International acclaim and other people's opinions aside, Patti knows that it's up to us as individuals to make decisions for ourselves. Things can always be done differently when it comes to others 'cause everyone has an opinion and only you know how your wheels turn.
"Because of the life I've lived, I know there is only one way I can live the life I have left---as a spiritual odyssey driven by an unbreakable promise, a solemn oath, a sacred vow."

With this book the reader becomes family, friend, confidant, lover. Every chapter baptizes the reader with the holy water of LaBelle's painful, gainful life and we witness with wonderment , reverence and gratitude the blossoming of little timid, 'homely' Patricia Louise Holte into the graceful, beautiful black swan known today as Patti LaBelle.

Life has taught her to value not only the hereafter but also the here and now. She refers to "When You've Been Blessed" as one of her favorite songs, not only for the meaning but also for the divine influence it seems to transfer to the audience.

Renamed LaBelle by her first manager (who initially turned her down because of her looks), Patti has truly transcended her Eurocentric nom de plume and her autobiography, deeply inspirational, revealingly tells us why.

Patti will be in the following cities for book signings - Baltimore on 10/25 and 10/26; in DC on 10/27 and 10/28 and in Philly on 10/29 and 10/30. She has re-recorded the material from her Christmas album of 1990 and will be re-releasing it with one new track titled "Angel Man" from the MCA "I'll Be Home for Christmas: Voice of the Homeless II" CD.

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Case
"Case"
Rush/Def Jam

It looks as though being on a soundtrack can make or break a career.Although the single, "Touch Me, Tease Me," featuring background vocals by Mary J. Blige and rap overlays by Foxy Brown, isn't a bad start from this New York City native/Mt. Vernon resident, don't get your underwear all up in a bunch.Unfortunately, that's where the excitement stops.

Case delivers a mediocre debut album that lacks substance and a groove. His delivery leaves one wondering if he wants to be considered an R & B singer or a true card carrier of the hip hop club. His sophomore single, "I Gotcha", doesn't even get 20 for $20 from Jenny and the monotonous b.g. music can't muffle the limp out-of-the-school-of-Paula-Abdual lyrics.

Don't get me wrong. His ballads "Fallin'", " More to Love", the current single, and "Rain" are indeed promising, if unfulfilled, and perhaps with a remix, his 'redo' of Alexander O'Neal's "Cryin' Over Time" will be more tempting than the bland depiction featured here. Grade: **

Xzibit
At the Speed of Life
Loud/RCA

Staying away from 'traditional' sampling, to include James Brown and George Clinton, Xzibit witnesses to the masses by ear. Just plop the CD in your compatible computer system and check out the interview conducted by E-Swift, as well as the video for "Paparazzi."

"There aren't many rap artists from the West that don't use G-Funk and gangsta themes," Xzibit says. After working with veterans like the Alkaholics and King Tee, Xzibit has a show with no time for an intermission.

Peep the talents on "Positively Negative", "The Foundation", "Bird's Eye View", "Hit and Run (Part II)", and "Carry the Weight". His lyrics grind yo ass like pepper from Southeast Asia and he packs a gangsta groove with a vicious vocal boom. Grade: ***

Sound Bites

Various Artists
"Bulletproof"
MCA

Can you say Wayans summer flop, boys and girls? Thank goodness for the soundtrack because it snaps back tighter than a girdle on Aretha.

Passion teams up with veteran rapper-producer Too $hort and Chrysalis' own Rappin 4-Tay for a gangsta beat 4 yo ass! Put the car in cruise control cause I'm headin' down Crenshaw! Wonder Twin powers activate! For those on the Brandy hype, get over it. Those on the Ja'son tip, get off it. "I Wanna Know Your Name" by Tasha and "Where You Are" by Rahsaan Patterson step off like a Que neophyte at an East Coast Summer Step Show.

"Champagne" by Salt-N-Pepa, didn't quite grab the gonads but what a difference a video makes. "How Could You " from K-Ci and Jo Jo of Jodeci gives typical good Jodeci sound, but if you listen carefully you'll hear the oh so familiar I've-worked-with-everyone-now-who's-gonna-produce-my-album-or-can-I-do-it-myself Babyface beat and arrangement. Bricking this brownstone together are solid performances from DTTX of A Lighter Shade of Brown (featuring Christopher Williams), Nonchalant, and Wreckx-N-Effect. Let's not forget about Adina Howard's contribution on Cydal's track, "Chocolate (Cuties and Condoms)", need I say more?
Grade: ** 1/2

Keb' Mo'
Just Like You
Okeh/Epic

Keb' Mo' AKA Kevin Moore delivers a definitive classic blues album on the Okeh label which has been home for such legends as Louis Armstrong, Mamie Smith and Duke Ellington, to name a few. This album is a gospelcentric-countrified-pop-tart-with an R&B tip-on a blues note.

Bonnie Raitt and Jackson Browne tithe generously on the title track. "Momma, Where's My Daddy" will testify to those tantalizing tear ducts and the churchified "Hand It Over" will have you stompin' and pattin' in the middle of traffic.

Robert Johnson's "Last Fair Deal Gone Down" takes us to the Supreme Court with a verdict of 'guilty' on a historical, creative memorable rendition. "Lullaby Baby Blues" is 'the' answer for any parent trapped with chil'rens that can't hush their mouths.

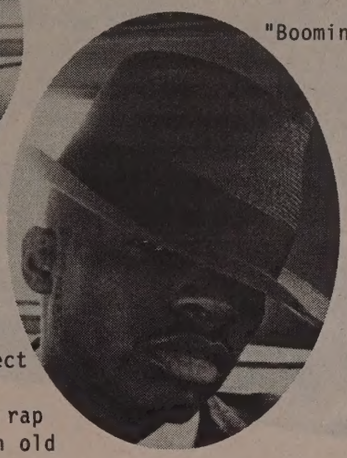
A definite jukejoint junky must.
Grade: *** 1/2

Sound Bites

Wreckx-N-Effect

Raps New Generation
MCA

Teddy took a back seat and this dynamic duo cut loose. Although some may see this as a remake album by the name of the song titles, Aquil Davidson and Markell Riley respectfully separate themselves from the original artists with their own unique renditions.



"Boomin System", "Criminal Minded", and "Somethin for Da Radio" stand out as favorites. "Rap Acting School" snipes a message not to be toyed with as the snippet of words possess the bite of a rabid Retooler. Wreckx-N-Effect vocalize as if it's an Armageddon prelude. Rack up one for rock and rap cause it rattles and rolls like an old enemy of the public.

Grade : ***

On The Brief

Esquizito, Esquizito,PSW. This self produced, gay, Puerto Rican brotha out of New York has put together a seven track cassette for alternative club fans. Although it may seem luke warm at first, the acoustics and guitar playing blend jazz and house commendably. "Neutral Observer" has to be the standout track, offering more change than a meter maid. Strong potential for it's market. Any offers? 3*2,The Wicked Buddha Baby, Noo-Trybe/Virgin.The title says it all. "Buddha Nature", "You Wanna Ride", "Hit the Highway" are some of the highlights on the CD. Too $short, Eightball, UGK, and MJG guest on some of the stronger tracks. Oakster deals on the real. South Side Playaz stink it up on the slammin' track of "Turning Lane". Ain't no goin' straight here!Various, ABC's of Soul, MCA. This three CD set contains 60's and 70's classics from Rufus and Chaka, Bobby Bland, B.B. King, Ike and Tina, Lenny Williams, the Four Tops, the Pointer Sisters, and many, many, more. From one-hit wonders to R&B icons - you get 'em all. Break out the stacks and the clunkity pumps 'cause this is true old skool.

Maxwell, Maxwell's Urban Hang Suite, Columbia. Seventies flower power mixed with nineties I-don't-give-a-fuck. Mellowdramatic drivin' with the wind against my bald head. Joyride in a converty - Sybil ain't the only one that can do it. This serves as a true milestone for generation X. Jimmy Scott, Heaven, Warner Brothers. At first you'll think you're listening to Etta James, but after Can't the second track Jimmy comes into his own. Can't bullshit blues junkies with bad blues. Can't be classified as a fav' but it gets the job done like plain-wrap sneakers. Various, 'Rent' Broadway Cast Recording, Dreamworks/Geffen. Ain't nuthin' goin' on but the 'Rent'. 'Rent' rocks the house down. Rock glam goes blues flavored gospel. African American influence is written all over this recording of this season's biggest and most critically acclaimed Broadway musical, especially the spiritual "Seasons of Change" - Hallelujah for the sunrise to the Amen of the glory. Stevie Wonder adds his two cents, need I say more? Various, The Mercury Blues N' Rhythm, Mercury. This CD is like your grandmother's dressin' - can't no body do it better. Even if you're not a blues fan, you'll want it because of Dinah Washington, Violet Hall, and Buddy and Ella Johnson. Various, The R&B Instrumental Classics - vol. 1 and 2, Hipo/MCA. Good traveling music, good dinner party music, good 'sleeping' music. Legends made are recreated and reconnected for some down home family get together talkin' 'bout some old times. Jennifer Holiday, The Best of Jennifer Holiday, Geffen. The only thing I remember about Jennifer is her hitting the 'voluptuous' size a couple of times. Out of five albums, she had four real 'hits', two of which were from 'Dream Girls'. Money talks and Bullshit walks. So, I guess we've walked to the moon and back with the two new tracks on the CD. But if you are a Jennifer fan, you'll be quite pleased no matter what I say. Here's a tip at no charge, . . . hire Junior Vasquez or Danny Tenaglia to do so some hateful house remixes. Then we'll talk! 'Someday', the previously un-released track, sounds alright, but somehow, someway, she needs to re-record something. Sistah's lookin' good, though. Montell Jordan, More, RUSH/Def Jam. Much better than the first album. Again, what a difference being on a soundtrack makes. He has about one real good 'This Is How We Do It' track this time out, but out of the slower tunes, I wouldn't bet a wooden nickel on any of the slower tunes. Nonetheless, he's on his way to being a good R&B artist . . . in about a couple of years. Various, Power Workout - vol. 1, Priority. DJ Ernie does a good job of mixing - the true job of a DJ (Not to let the records just spin, scratch, skip, or play while you sit and sip on a cocktail). Stand out 'underground' house tracks from Rudy Rude Dog, LA Tribe, Mighty Dub Kats, and Juanito's Way - reasons alone to buy the CD. Twirl until you jherri curl! And, if you're ever in Los Angeles, just listen at 12 Noon to Power 105.9. 'Baby, Work It!'RuPaul, Foxy Lady, Rhino. Oh, what we won't do to appeal to the masses! Techno, Techno, Techno. Don't get me wrong, there's room for everyone in the African American culture, but this is not the same Ru I remember from album numero uno. You'll find a booty shaking track, a couple of house tunes, a colita tune for the Spanish inspired and WEHO tunes to drive you crazy. The best cut has to be "Happy", but too bad there's nothing to smile about. Damn! Junior Vasquez, Danny Tenaglia, and Cashmere will never be out of work as DJ's!

Singles

Killa Fornia Organization featuring Compton's Most Wanted, "Throw It Up", Thug Records. Good vibe, but look for their single "Evil that G's Do". It's much better. Maddhead,"Tripp2Nite", Geffen. Not a bad start, but "Representing" is where itz at. L.O.L., Summer Breeze, Franchise Records. Mediocre sounding single. Now, "Eye 4 N Eye" is where it's at. Hope the album reflects more of the eye and less of the breeze. Goodfellaz, "Sugar Honey Ice Tea", Polydor/A&M. The video is da bomb! I got the single at a club when I confronted the promoter for not giving me one while in line. Who would have thought it would have been this good. Someone tell me why H-Town and Silk still have contracts? Dana Bryant, "Wishing From the Top", Warner Brothers. The girl is a six foot goddess. Much respect to the Nubian intellectual princess.

She had a voice that could melt dry ice in a hotel refrigerator. Legendary diva with the class and style of a Dorothy Dandridge. She hits a note that still rings in the ear today.

Video of the Month

"Everyday"
Tha Truth featuring E Double
Priority Records

Director: Lionel Martin
Stylist: Eric Burg
Hair/Make-Up: Chris Maldanado

Sound Bites

Her delivery of Gil Scott Heron's classic 70's rap "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised" is like a motion of the hand from a traffic guard. Look out as she leads the new wave of musical poetry for Generation X. And who said we didn't have anything to say? K-P, "Somebody Like You", featuring Chanita Renee w/special rap guest Apocalypse, Provocative Entertainment. I'll say that the song reminds me of some three day old cabbage left out on the back burner of a wooden stove. The second version of the song is the best, but it won't get any major awards from any club dancin'-twirlin'-hoppin'-kickin' diva. Everyone can't be a 'Spike' of their genre, but as producers the duo has some potential. Westside Connection,"Bow Down", Priority. Beer bust, malt liquor style. I've seen Ice Cube better, Mac 10 is his usual self, but WC comes out the winner here. The single didn't really move me, but the magic and power of a video does wonders, now-a-days. Me'shell Ndegeocello,"Who Is He And What Is He To You", Sire/WB. Remake, redone, and rewind one more time. The gopher just saw it's shadow and the Clippers just won three in a row, well we can all wish, can't we? If someone is standing on the wall when this is played, I'll personally schedule them an appointment with Dr. Khavorkian. Curtis Mayfield, "New World Order", WB. Red wine anyone? May I field you some class nineties style, Curtis? To say more would be an insult. Bush Babees,"The Love Song", WB. This trio delivers a funk flow of all its own. "Gravity" is the title of the new CD and 'Apollo 13' just hit a black hole. Pure restless as you get weightless on the dance floor. Rick James isn't the only one on the loose! Maxi Priest, "That Girl", Virgin.It won't get major play like it should but the song bumps like an old tire in the back of a pinto, the video electrifies as though it's an eel in a Jim Carey film, and Maxi and Shaggy are like peanut butter and jelly.

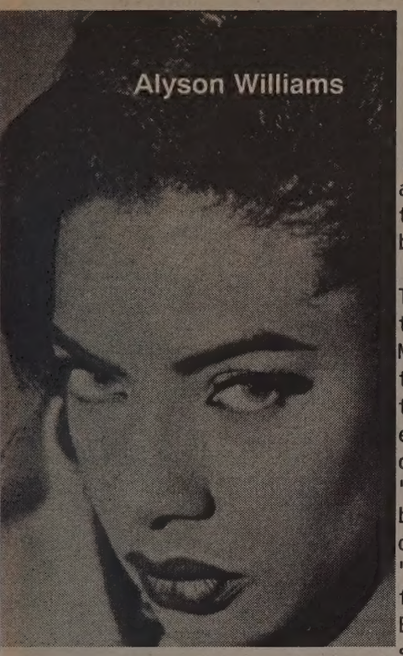
Classic of the Month

"Memory Lane"Minnie Ripperton
Capitol Records

Bits and Pieces

What's up in the music industry? This is the last quarter and no one is really pushing any of their artists. Get ready for a red hot and wild first quarter because they are about to push and promote the hell out of product from Nenah Cherry (Virgin), Janet Jackson (Virgin), Flesh-N-Bone (Def Jam) and Vanessa Williams (Mercury), to name a few.

If the Emotions can do it, why can't the Whispers? The Whispers are touring with their play "Thank God! The Beat Goes On!",focusing on their life story and touching on that of Phyllis Hyman (played by Alyson Williams). There's a stellar performance (actual-



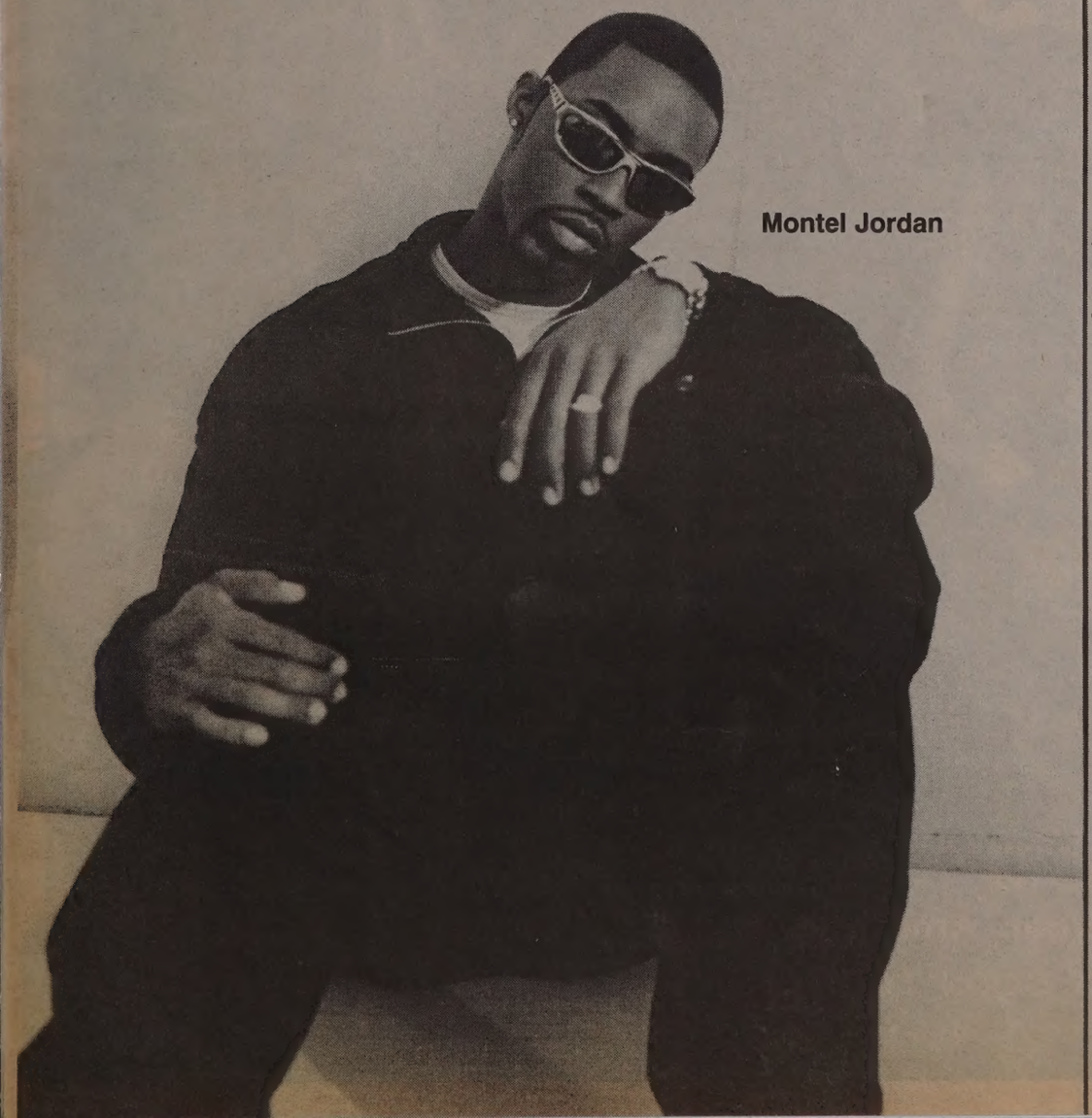
ly, three to be exact) by a former Richard Smallwood singer, Rikki Valentino LaFontaine. For your records, he duets on Terry Ellis's solo album, "Southern Gal". Check out the play. It's in L.A. for a week beginning November 5.

Tony, Toni, Tone has an album titled, 'House of Music' on Mercury slated for release later this month. Word has it that they'll be using vintage recording equipment and a 40 piece string orchestra. Leah Andreone's single "It's Alright, It's OK" seems to be doing well and let's hope her debut album from RCA titled "Veiled" is the promised fulfilled. Mobb Deep drops "Hell on Earth" at a music store near you soon. The album will include appearances from NAS, Rapper Noyd, Wu Tang's Chef Raekwon and Method Man. You should already be hearing the single, "Drop A Gem On 'Em".

Philadelphia based DJ's and recording artists Josh Wink and King Britt are the brain children of the label that will focus on the direction of "whatever" as far as music is concerned. So far, the label includes representation from acid jazz, techno jungle, and an electronic soundscape concept. A love of guitars? Then, the G3 tour is for you. Comprised of guitar greats Joe Satriani, Eric Johnson, and Steve Vai, you can catch them in Boston on 10/27, Valley Forge,PA on 10/28, Memorial Auditorium in Columbus on 10/30, the Palace in Detroit on 10/31, the Aragon in Chicago on 11/1, and the Northrup Auditorium in Minneapolis on 11/2. Power Workout II from Priority Records hits the streets on 11/12.

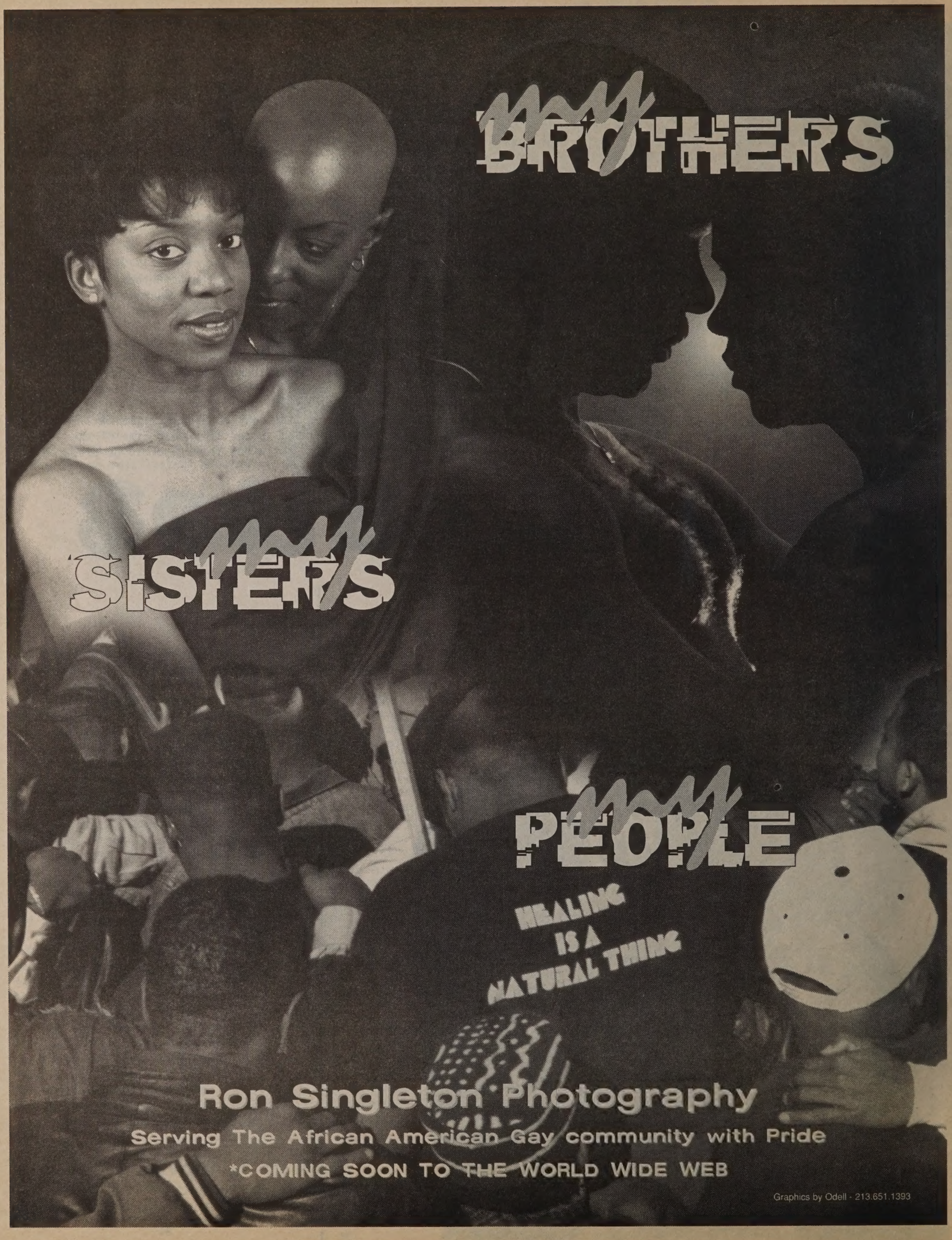
Short Notes : Carmen Elektra, taking over "Singled Out", becomes the Vanna White of MTV. Lionel Martin has moved from directing music videos to movies. His directorial debut will be "How to Be A Player", written by Troy Beyer and Marc Brown. Is it me or is "C-Bear and Jamal" one of the hippest cartoons on Saturday mornings? Something definitely about that Tone Loc voice. It's that time of the career and it resembles a flu bug this time, so be prepared

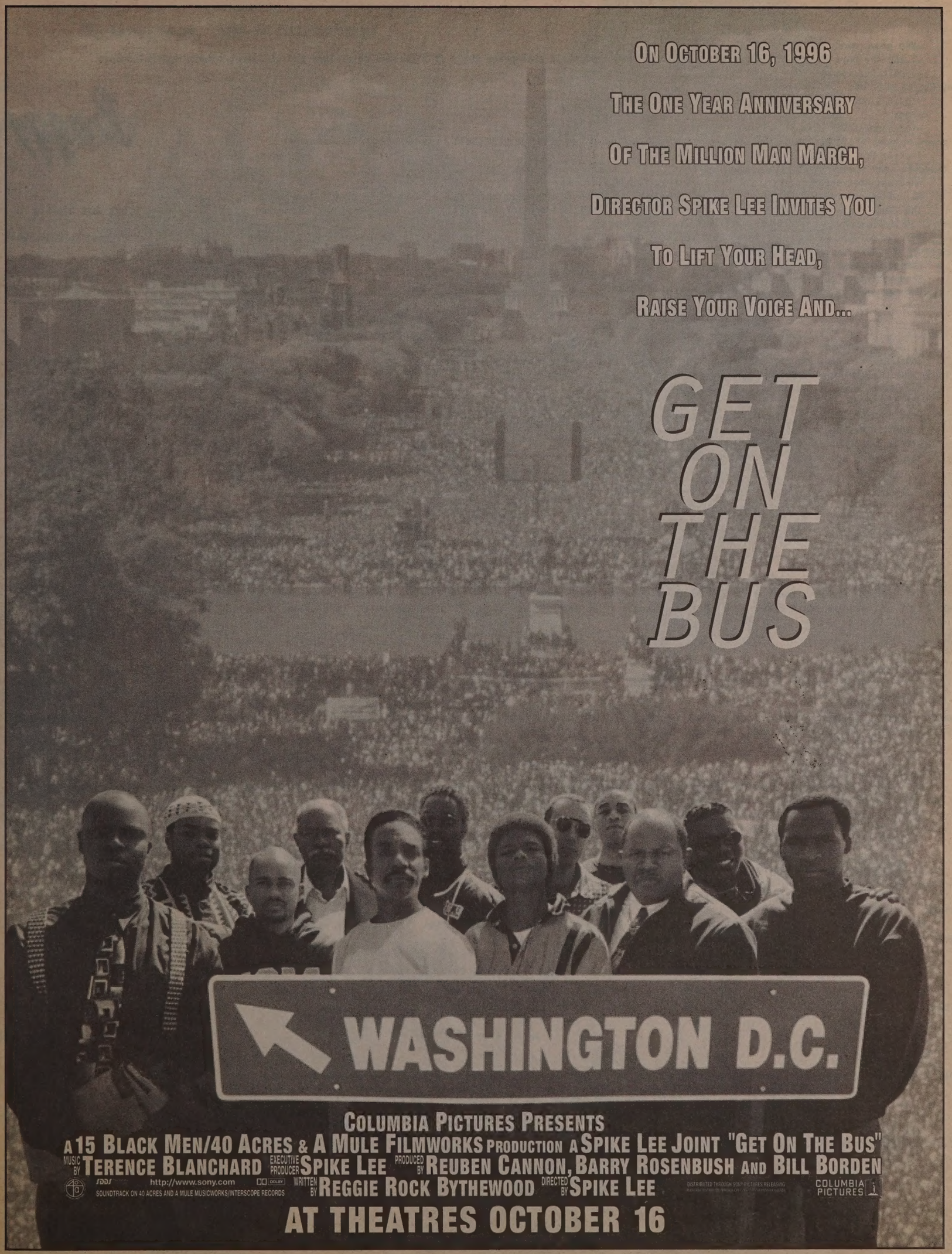
Sound Bites



Montel Jordan

and expect greatest hits albums from Chaka Khan (December, hopefully), L.L. Cool J (November), Phyllis Hyman (December) and Earth, Wind and Fire (sometime soon),. . . by the way, what happened to Whitney's? Although A&M gave Terry and Jimmy the boot over their Perspective Records, Ann Nesby seems to winning hearts all over with her solo debut. The kids in the clubs just live and 'testify' with her club hits. Oh well, boots were made for walking!


MY BROTHERS
MY SISTERS
MY PEOPLE
HEALING IS A NATURAL THING
Ron Singleton Photography
Serving The African American Gay community with Pride
*COMING SOON TO THE WORLD WIDE WEB
Graphics by Odell - 213.651.1393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Baggy

I

-Who plays daddy...-
...and the boys lay naked on the ashvault surrounding the public pool=peach fuzzy #1 blkheaded cutz. They had pinkyfeet/slimdodieslonglonglegs.
-F-ckit Dez/ignore 'em-
1 boy/Dez/he gets up.
-Yo/it's nothing lil'Gz just forget it-
-Punx-
-You wanna catch a beatdown-
Dez moves up/now. The other youngerboy/Shun/wants to pull him back/but there's no hipbelt to hold onto.
F-ckit, Dez, sup James-
The thuggies keep speeching/bigtalk = louder.
What was that/whatdidyasay=y'all got to get a lil'bass in your voice-
Dez walks toward the pool/squats at the edge/dips his hands in the water and dumps a bunch of it on his face.
The thugs just spat=like he was sh-t/ofay...James, Raul and Earl=ghetto//low riding caps, baggy trousers, oversized shirts. They though they were big/big time=mack daddy/daddylonglegs/ goldmine dentures and cheap beepers.
Dez was alright, though. He was Shun's boy, now. Dez had said so this... He let the water run down his neck and over his body. The drops turned to bronz when it mixed w/ his skin and the spot light.
Comeon Dez/come back-
Shun wanted to go catch him back.
But Dez kept walking. He walked around the pool toward them. Things were fine/Dez wasn't ducking and hiding/not this night/ not here, now/or there...

II

...and he swooned.
Sometimes, in bed, in the morning, because Shun had gotten hard/because he was a guy/he would attempt to play w/ the stuff/ but only got bored or disenchanted/ w/the thunder striking reality/ that no 1 was there/really.
Dez looked down at him ['cause he was high/tall].
-Do you mind-
When at times, once or twice a wk/or so/Dez could complete a tug to the point of orgasm, he would think of the idea of lil'man here.
...he lifted Shun's ball cap.
-Yeah, I thought you were one of those-
Shun laughed and nodded his head and quaked his body in a snicker.

[what do you think James]

III

He got the first swing in, after he spat Earl in the eye. But, inevitable, got dble teamed by Raul and James.

IV

Dez was just coming around to all of this/he figured/he figured he liked him. Shun was much younger and he was fascinated by Dez's aggressivity and t-shirt. He wanted to get into the heart w/ him//feel him. What would it be like/to kiss his big lips = squishy and soft sponge.

[is you still in there James]

****

...aaahhh, Shun held him/gave him a quick hug/hello/goodbye and felt the back under Dez's t-shirt=working class form. It caved in and started to round out again but Shun stopped before he got to his rump[. His pants hung low.

V

S'blood: they started booting him. Dez caught on to Raul's leg and flipped him over into the pool. Shun wanted to get Dez's and his clothes. He watched as they gave Dez stomps and soccer style kicks to the head. It raised the bile in Shun. It raised the bile in Dez. It raised the bile in James/and Raul was wet.../ and Earl... It would make you flinch if you saw this sh-t happen to a dawg.

Vi

At the corner store/just across the street/outside the school//George dished out pops/candie/and cigarettes [cigarettes under the table] = the coolios could look tough now. George was a grey who looked real funny at the minibloods. You could feel him zooming in w/ exray specs at the trousers as they walked out his door.
...and Dez'd smile at Shun as he checked out the comics/but/before/he/frowned/real intense/outside. They had arrived almost at the sametime/scooting in on lowriders. The kids would stack them against the window of the store. George didn't mind the view being blocked//wasn't the streets he was looking at...
Dez's eyes panned w/Shun/ as Shun went in w/ James and Raul and Earl following. It was the kid's lips/eyes and those jet blk thick brows//hell/Shun had the longest lashes he's ever saw/ catching raindrops or maybe pussy willows in them.

****

-Do you want one-
Dez past Shun a gummy brain.

[yeah and 2 of those]

He had a fist full of the stuff jammed in a paperbag//

[4 of those]

sour suckers/gummy snakes

[8 no 10 of the cherry and raspberry]

blk lickerish pipes w/ red tops.

[aaaah, 2 of them plse]

By Lawrence Ytzhak Braithwaite

Trousers

He had followed Shun out of the store. Well/Dez caught his eye/ and so/he glanced and smiled/then ducked his head down/like he was going to kick dirt/and padded **[slowly]** bought the comic and stuff from George/ w/out even looking at him/and went out.

-Sure...thanks-

-You're Shun/right-

-Shun/yeah...-

-I'm...-

-Dez...-

-//...//-

-I see riding around/You got a board/I see you at the ramp/Rumour has it you got a cribramp-

'Not much...-

-Not much/I hear it's sooper phat/not a stad or grommet to be found-

Shun might be considered a grommet himself/but Dez wasn't going to blow it by suggesting such a thing. It left a lot of room for a quick comment and dis but not for this 1/not for lazy eyes/ere.

-Have another gummy brain Shun-

He reached into the paper bag and shuffled his paw for 1. Dez wished now/that he had kept them in his pocket. Shun finally got 1 and popped it in his mouth. Dez watched it pucker up/cause the candy was so sweet/sour.

He had a goat on his chin//wolly blk;

-What's it like-

He asked him//

//and Shun found a way to stroke it.

[Get out of my head/stop c-ckteasing]

VII

WHACK **WHACK** **WHACK**

OH

UMPH

-STEPOFF-

CRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRAAAAAAAAAAACCCK

[..James]

VIII

-Whatup/Shun-

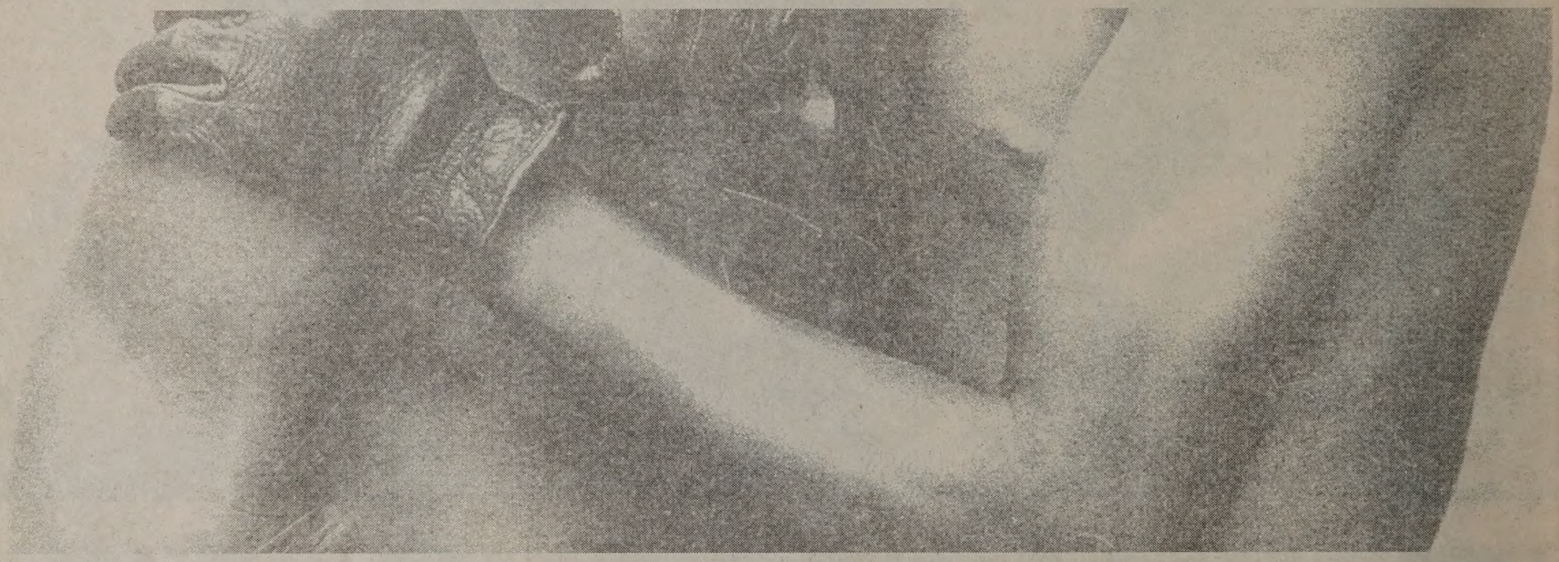
James and crew had come out of the store.

-Oh/guys/this is Dez/ah...you know-
-yeah/howzitdoing/longtime-
James didn't look non too pls'd/Raul looked cold/Earl was stressing. Earl lighted up a smoke. Earl jacked his head around. Earl wanted to stomp/throwdown/scrap/like.

[whachathinkinjames]

-You coming Shun-
-Yeah/you coming-
-Comeon/Shun-
-Yeah/you coming-
-Whatup/Shun-
-Let's go-
-...Shun...-
-Look/ah.../I've got to take off...-
-Listen/dropby-
-Where-
-My crib/we'll shred/midnighttime-
-//.../-
-I know you know where it is-
Dez brushed his hand along Shun's arm. Guys don't touch/not really/sometimes/ roughlike/agro sh-t/but not sweet.
...aaahhh, Shun held him/gave him a quick hug/hello/goodbye and felt the back...
[what do you think James]
There was alot of carry go bring come going on about Dez and Shun knew it. Lil'g's added to it. Theyzcouldaddmoreznow/ w/ allathis sh-t/they hadn't saw.

IX



-YOUWANTAS-CKMYD-CK-

Earl got Dez in a headlock but Dez/ the boyo that he was/twisted out of it and slammed him in the nuts.

-BUTLER-

-MARICON-

-F-CKYOUYOBOZ/I'MGONNAF-CKYOUANDYOURB-TCHSRIGHTUP-

SLAM TO THE BACK OF THE HEAD//AND DEZ GOES down...

X

Shun did come by. Shun brought his board. Shun and Dez tried some new stuff. Dez showing Shun a few new tricks//like a frontside ollie to nosegrind to ollie out. When Dez launched over the lip silencing the wheels/Shun was perfectly settled and calm but his heart fell into his pocket and he got all warm.
Dez had tricks that were dope//ollied out of his this curb cut and **KABLAAAM** the board was all twirlly whirly round spinning/and he caught it//so fresh.
-RRRRRRRRipping/shaking head yes-
They sat down/sipping grapejuice/on this raggedy old couch Dez kept outside/beside the ramp.
-Glad//...//you James' lil brother/right-
-Yeah/he dislikes you/says he wants to kill you/alot-
-Ha...-
'Why/I hear you used to be tight-
-'cause...-,
-Why you and him. He used to be such a bully in school-
-Well/I got thrown out 'cause of him/eh-
-I heard/sup/man/wha'appen-
-Well man/I don't want to put your blood down/man-
-//.../-
-He and me were into all this sh-t = smoking blunts/having knife fights/mini gangbanger sh-t/f-cking beepers/ha/f-cking idiotboy crapstuff. I got tired. He didn't...-
-I know-
Dez gave a reach for Shun's ball cap.
-Do you mind-
...he lifted Shun's ball cap.
-Yeah, I thought you were one of those-
Shun laughed and nodded his head and quaked his body in a snicker.
'Well/'welcome to the terrordome'/sweetheart-
-What am I supposed to do/walking around pretending I'm big daddy longlegs pimp/like my brother-
-Nahnahnah/you too smart for all that-
-What do you do now-

-Well this for 1/I work out of this place = renovating for this guy. I get low rent/which comes straight out of my pay/still get pocket money and whole shack to myself/plus late night public pool all to myself/'cause I could climb real good-

-I don't see you climbing any fence/Dez-

-Nah/actually I cut a hole in it-

Dez leaned over him and gave him a kiss/Shun pulled away/but he opened him mouth before he did.

-I don't know//...//this is a big life decision-

-Whether to have a kidney transplant/is a big decision/whether to donate bone marrow or a lung to your brotha is a big decision. This is a shag-

-...a shag-

-Yeah/ a shag/a pull//jolly/jolly//in a world filled w/so many unknows/the possibilities are endless-

Shun gave out a cute little giggle;

-You're so full of sh-t//...//Dez/man/like are you ashamed of who you are/well/what you...well/I hear stuff/right/carry go bring come sh-t. Maybe I'm wrong/right/maybe-

-How old are you Shun-

-Why/15/why...-

-15...-

Dez faked a move away from him/stroked his fuzzy chin and glanced sideways at Shun.

-Hell/you haven't done nothin yet-

-What I/I/the 1st time I had sex/I was 13//no hair on my crotch...-

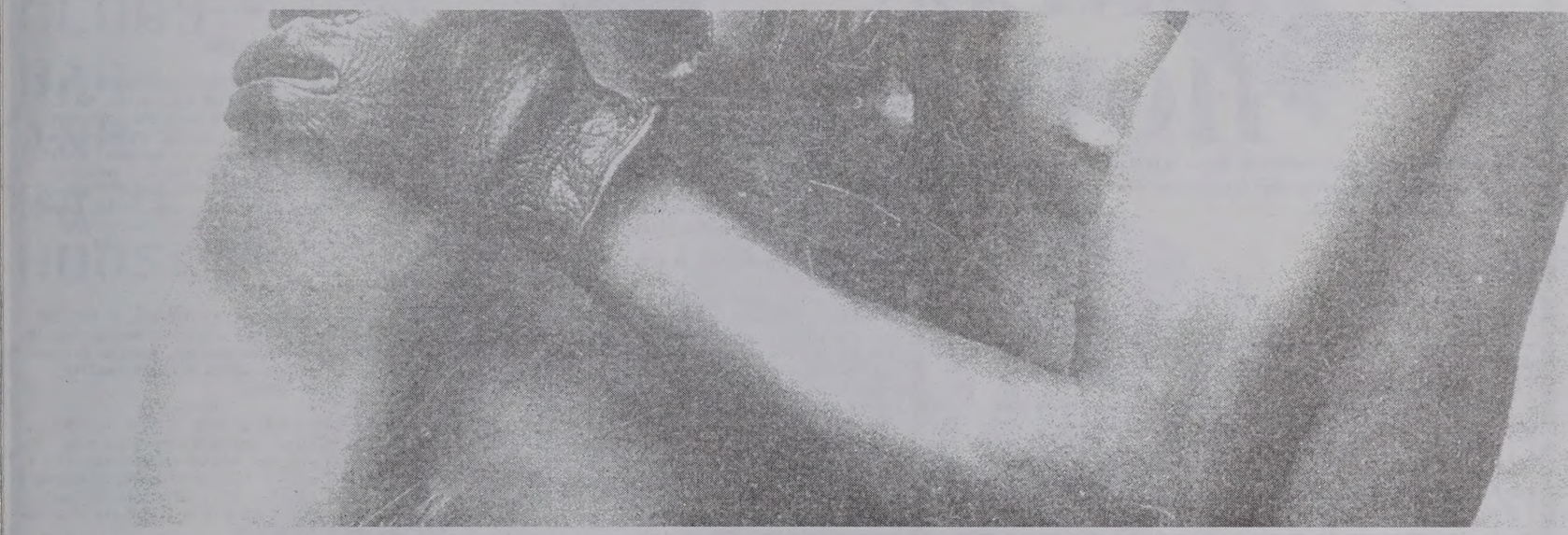
-You were 13 and you had no hair-

-Well/peachfuzz stuff. I was just starting-

-So what's it like now-

-Dez kissed him and slipped his hand down the front of Shun's baggy trousers. Shun fell apart in his arms and when Dez reached under his shirt to touch his nipple/Shun's head fell back and he let out a whispered "o"//...// w/ his eyes closed and everything like that.

Sensual sounds in their chest and air pockets once the shirts came off. Shun kicked Dez's sneakers off and reached for that rump he wanted to touch



before/and before that and all the othertimes. Shun was liked.

He kissed Dez's gooey gummy bear lips and it was just like candy and bubblegum. The lil 'g'z legs were all slick inside/Dez figuring it was a good place to start. Lil man could see the sky jet blk/blue. His chest/inside passed over his pumping heart/and shot slow sounding air from his mouth/when Dez slid his stoopid sticky gumball way in/covered in a goodybag he flopped out of his discarded trousers.

Dez's life/Shun's life/Dez's life and Shun's//wet and sleepy/ w/ baby blk jam like sidewalk summer bubblegum all over Shun's belly/stuck inside the button too.

...and Shun was laughing and laughing.

-I knew you'd c-m-

...and Shun kept laughing. Dez got up off/kissing the lil' giggler's nipple and tacked the jammybag to the wall of the house.

-...whatareyoudoin-

-Keepin' it safe for remembering/comeon/it's everyguy's dream-

-Comeback Dez-

-Don't worry I won't stop holding you/you're all warm-

-Let's go to the pool/there/Dez-

-You want to swim a bit/aaaah/what a f-cking romantic boyo-

...and Dez scraped his goat cross Shun's chin and neck and made him smile/kind of 'ah shucks like'.

XI

-I should have checked you out the 1st time James...-

This blood came out Dez's mouth when he finished w/;

-WHAT DO YOU THINK JAMES/HA...F-CKYOU-

-You better come back home now Shun-

-You're a f-cking asskisser James/go away/I'll comeback when I wantz-

-Shun was holding Dez and despite the cracks and blks and blues/he still was swooning/wanting to hold tight/tighter.

...and Dez was cracking a pomegranate grin:

[what do you think James]
[is your lil'g'z still down]
[is things still cool]
[is you still mack]
[is your brother still here]
[is Shun still crying]
[He like you when you held me]

(Lawrence Ytzhak Braithwaite is the author of the critically-acclaimed novel WIGGERS. The African-Canadian currently resides in Vancouver, British Columbia)

Photo by Bruce Weber

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L.A. CLASSIFIEDS:
ORGANIZATIONS/GROUPS/MEETINGS

HEY BROTHER, WE HAVE A LOT TO TALK ABOUT! Real friendships start with a hello. Say hello to your brothers in a non-judgmental, supportive environment where group discussions touch on subjects of concerned to all of us as Black gay men. Come join in on The Black Gay Men's Rap. We meet every Friday at 7 pm at the Unity Fellowship Center, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., two blocks West of La Brea in the Baldwin Hills area of Los Angeles. For more information please call 213.936.4948.

FREE COMEDY IMPROV WORKSHOP IN WEST HOLLYWOOD continuing every Thursday evening from 7:30 PM to 10:30 PM. There are a group off comics, actors, writers, directors and professionals who meet to explore their uniqueness through exercises and games encompassing improvisational comedy with a Groundlings background. This workshop is free. At The Actors Lab, located at 1514 North Gardner Avenue in West Hollywood. For reservations please call 310.659.2227.

HEART TO HEART TOUCH PLAYSHOPS: Join fun & intimacy in nonsexual supportive touch activities. 7:30 PM, Wednesdays at 8000 Sunset Blvd. Community Room. West Hollywood. 2nd and 4th Thursdays at The Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Community Center. 2017 E. 4th. Long Beach. $10. 213.891.6000

L.A. PERSONALS:

DIAL-A-DATE "AN INTRODUCTION NETWORK FOR BLACK GAY MEN" Our monthly newsletter provides contacts for single Black gay men seeking relationships, friendships and dating. To receive information on "Dial-A-Date" call 213.980.3373 or send a self addressed stamped envelope to: 289 So. Robertson Bl. #401 Beverly Hills, Ca. 90211

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL PERSONALS AND PEN PALS:

CRAZY, SEXY, COOL & HOT BROTHER. Single black attractive man, 32 years old, 10 solid inches, 5' 10", 155 lbs, former SBC centerfold model, likes Oleta Adams, Randy Crawford & Phyllis Hyman. Also likes long hot bubble baths & a rough game of basketball. You: 25-35 yrs. old, 5' 8" to 6' 1", 160 to 180 lbs., nice ass & also hung. Bald head is O.K. I love a black man with a goatee & who takes care of his body & mind & must have strong legs. No smokers. Let's get to know one another. You must also live in Memphis, L.A. or South Carolina, but I will answer all. Make that move. Real Black Men Only. Write to Erick/ 4643 Pecan Street/ New Orleans, Louisiana 70126

EUROPE BOYS AND GENTLEMEN 18 AND OVER WOULD LIKE TO MEET AMERICAN GUYS from anywhere in U.S. to share friendship and exchange visits in U.S.A./France, Belgium, Luxembourg or Switzerland. Write to Pierre Castan/ 4, place du Temple/ F-30620 Bernis/ France

FRENCH GENTLEMAN 49 YEARS OLD PARISIAN ARTS PAINTING RESIDENT CASABLANCA/MOROCCO seeks masculine-aggressive top man. Must know how to handle long love sessions. You to be well hung black American, Spanish or Europe. Pierre Margot/ Villa Safir/ Carrejour Rues El Jahidz/ Et Yacoub El Mansour/ 20650 Mohammedia/ Maroc (Morocco)/ Fax.011.33.6671.1712

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FOR SEX AS A SPIRIT TRIP, (Black) Body/Soul mate wanted to seek God in whatever sexual ecstacies. 5' 11", cut 7", 175 lbs., mustache, good looking, HIV-, late 40s WM, Christian at core, versatile bottom seeks trim to slim, mission oriented, compatible searcher with the body-heart-spirit mutuality blacks have shown me. Travel nationwide. Write to P.O. Box 235/ 43 Main Street SE/ Minneapolis, Mn. 55414

LOOKING FOR LOVE & AFFECTION FROM A STRONG BLACK MAN 45 for a white male in my 50s in Dallas, Texas to embrace me and be with me for the rest of my life as a true friend and lover. Eddie. 214.946.7325

SINGLE BLACK GAY MAN, 5' 8", 160 lbs., brown skin complexion, brown hair and eyes, moustache, HIV+ (in good health) seeking other black gay/bisexual men ages: 28 to 39, well to muscular built (bodybuilder a plus) for friendship, possible relationship. Must be a caring and sincere person. If this is you and you want to communicate with me, write me. Paul Cordell Shields/ 6503 South May Street Chicago, IL 60621.

FREE LIVE CHAT! Unrestricted national: 970.265.7878. Limited Southern California access: 213.680.7511. 18 years old + only. Usual toll only.

ARIZONA

RELATIONSHIP ORIENTED, EXCEPTIONALLY ATTRACTIVE GHM in Northern Arizona. I'm 5' 9", 175 lbs., Br/Br, 501's, cowboy type, masc., musc., nice furry chest and butt, professional, late 40's, total bottom. ISO Attractive GBM Topman only for LTR. I enjoy the outdoors, travel, music, movies, working out, quiet times. I travel to Southern California often. I'm affectionate, sincere, romaantic. UB2. Seeking monogamous only, 35-50. Endowed A+. Letter/photo to: Boxholder, Suite 300-155, 2700 Woodlands Village Bl., Flagstaff, Arizona 86001

CALIFORNIA

HANDSOME, LIGHT-COMPLEXIONED, 20 YEAR OLD, 5' 10", 160 LBS., TOP BROTHER seeking an attractive Brother from 18 to 35 with intelligence and sexiness. Muscular A+. Send reply and photo to: Gary Reddick II/ 1308 Camellia Drive/ Palo Alto, CA 94303

WELL ENDOWED BLACK MAN SEEKS SAME. 5 ft, 6 in, 175 lbs, new in the SF Bay area. Looking 4 other black male friends and more with that special discreet man. If U R looking 4 a good man 4 a lover or a lasting friendship & UR attractive, black, fit, HIV-, let's talk. No fems, queens, overweights PLEASE! U'll be glad U did. P.O. Box 1255/ Oakland, CA 94561-1255

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BEFORE TRAVELLING TO OAKLAND call day or night 1.900.285.5050 Ext. 972. For street scene. $2.00 per minute. 18 yrs. and older. Strauss Communications 408.625.1910

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ME: WELL HUNG, MUSCULAR, AFFECTIONATE, CLEAN-SHAVEN BM, 5' 10", 31w, 175 lbs. You: small waist and big protruding bubble butt. Let's connect for some man loving. Harold P.O. Box 22263/ Baltimore, Md. 21203-4263

TEXAS

LOOKING FOR LOVE & AFFECTION FROM A STRONG BLACK MAN 45 for a white male in my 50s in Dallas, Texas to embrace me and be with me for the rest of my life as a true friend and lover. Eddie. 214.946.7325

WASHINGTON D.C.

ISO GBM 35-55, career/goal-oriented, financially independent, settled/secured in Washington D.C. fit, non-smoker, willing/able to commit to a relationship. I am GWM, 47, 6', 170 lbs. with same attributes, who is masculine, athletic, spiritual and enjoys working out, music, quality friendships, and is a good communicator and very romantic. J.J. Box 18091/ Washington D.C. 20036

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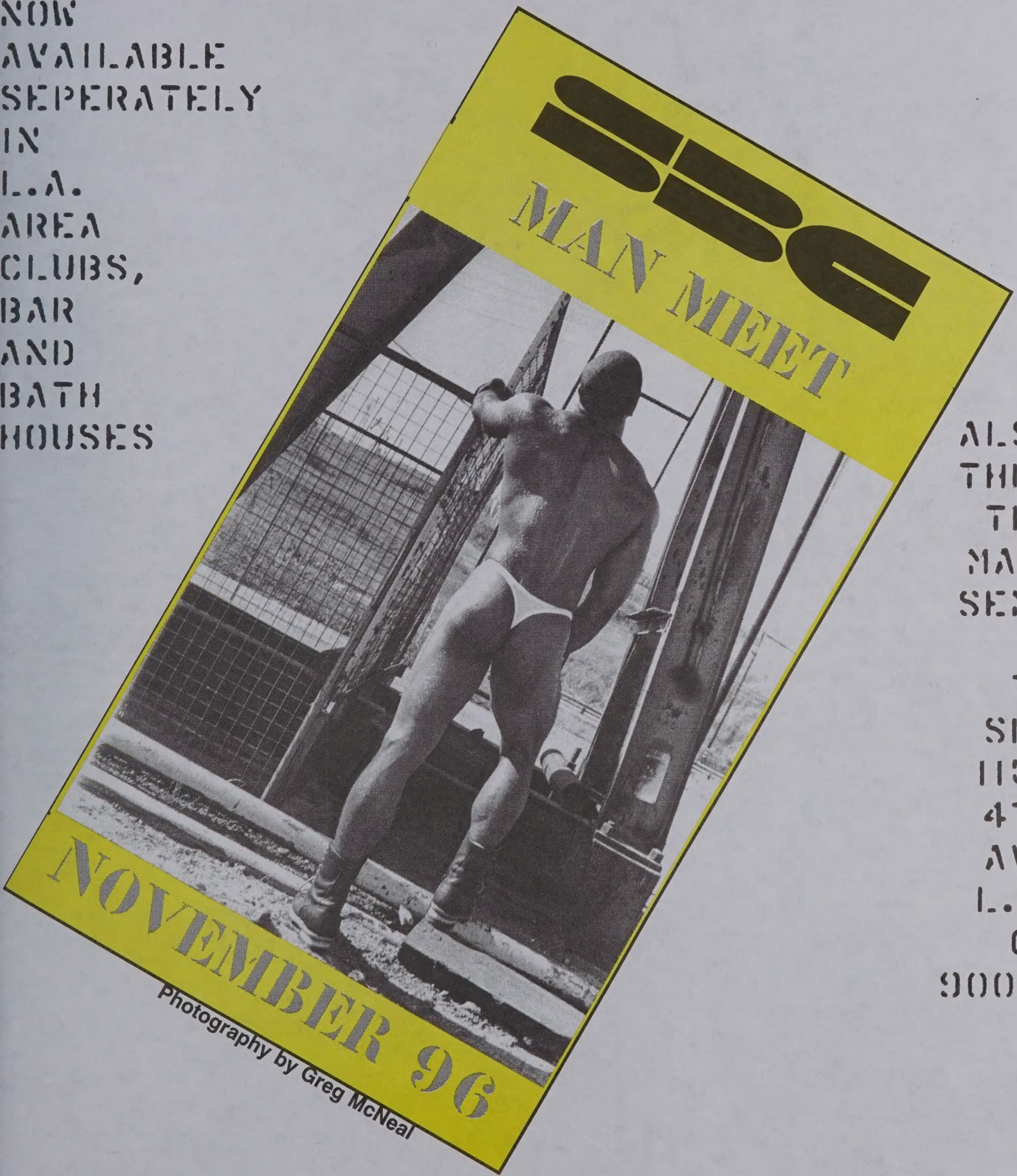

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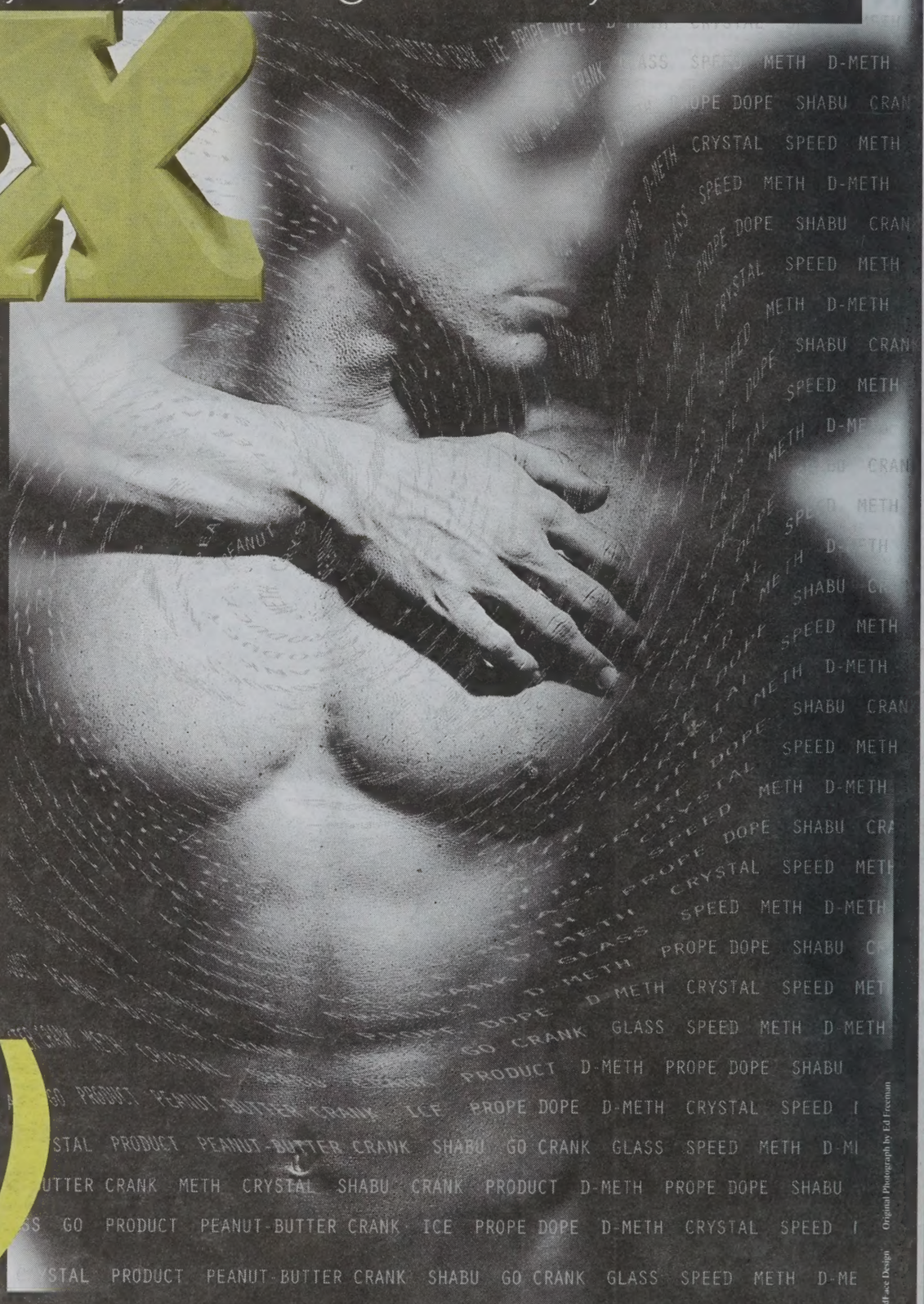
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Crystal methamphetamine is impacting our gay and bisexual male community. It's time we honestly talk about it.

Come, be part of a diverse group of gay and bisexual men willing to openly discuss their experiences with crystal meth and sex in a safe, confidential, non-judgmental forum. This discussion, taking place at the following sites, will explore how crystal affects our own lives, sexuality and community, and contributes to HIV infection.

The scheduled forums and events are:

Saturday, October 12th
9:00 am - 3:30 pm
forum @ Pasadena Community College.

Saturday, October 19th
9:00 am - 3:30 pm
forum @ Los Angeles Community College.
Part of this forum will be conducted in Spanish for monolingual Spanish speakers.

Saturday, October 26th
9:00 am - 3:30 pm
@ Santa Monica City Community College.

Saturday, November 2nd
9:00 am - 3:30 pm
@ Plummer Park in West Hollywood.

Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided free of charge

Help us take this important step toward promoting well-being in gay and bisexual men's lives and reducing the risk of HIV transmission within our community. For more information,

call 213-993-1650.

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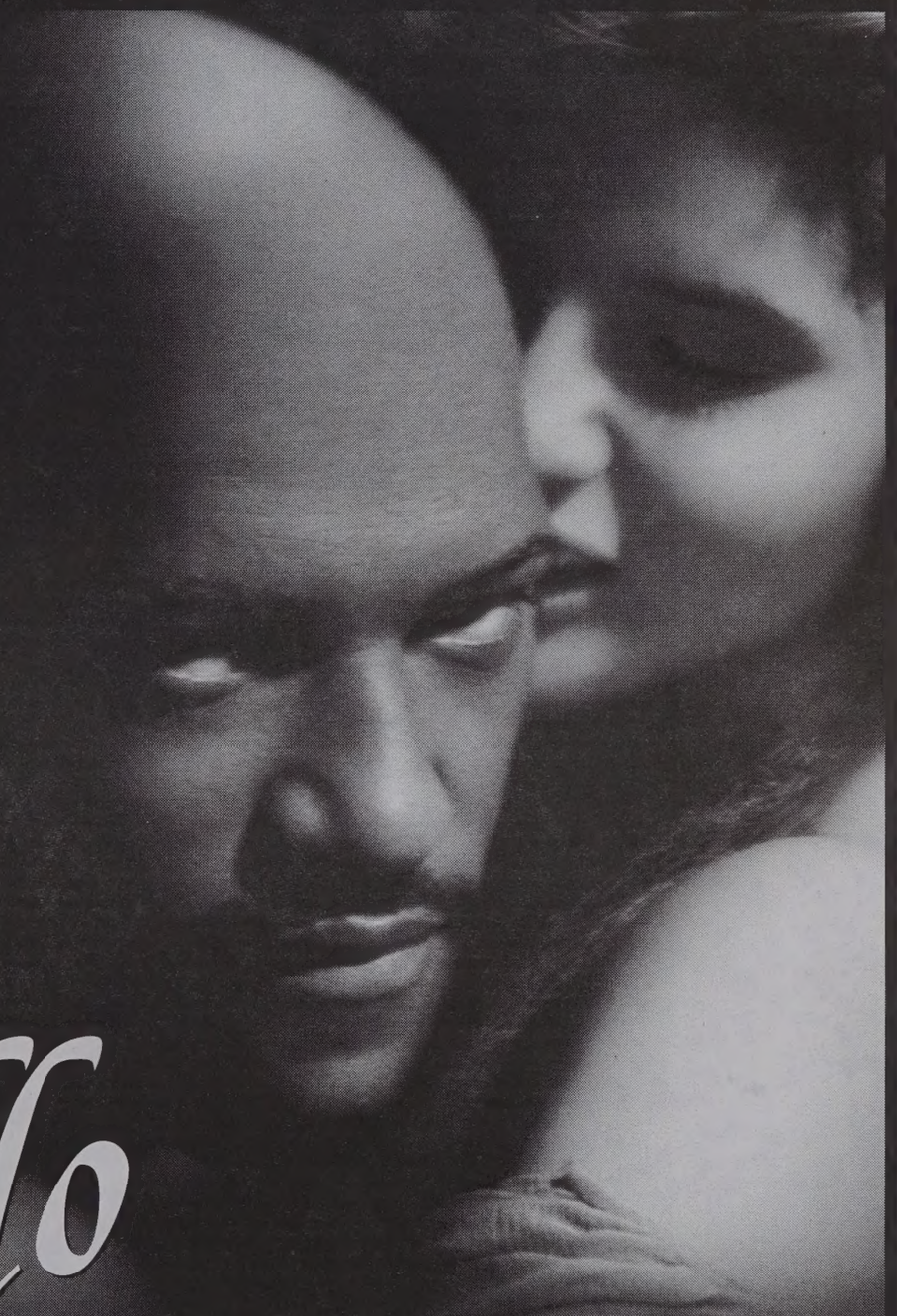

Othello

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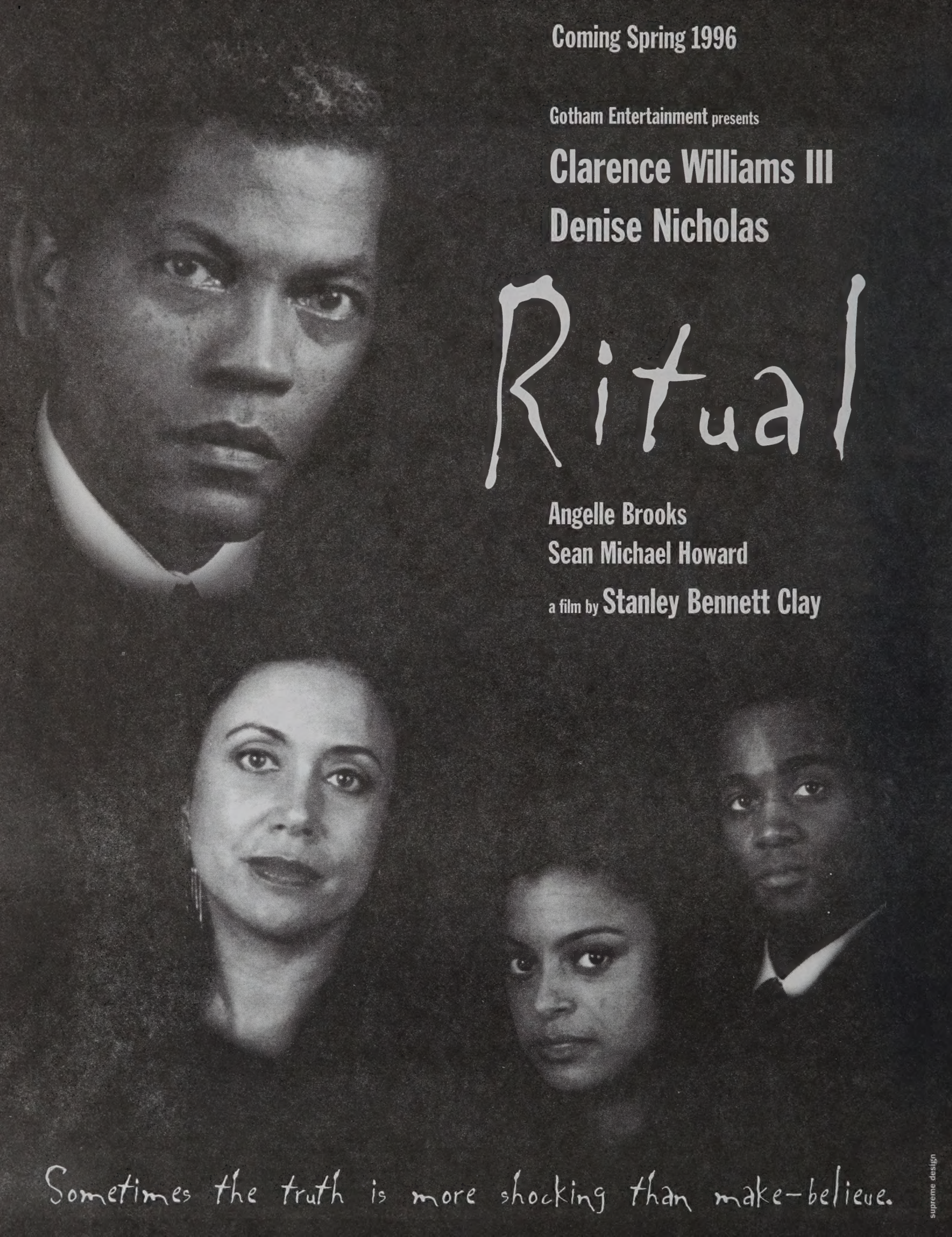
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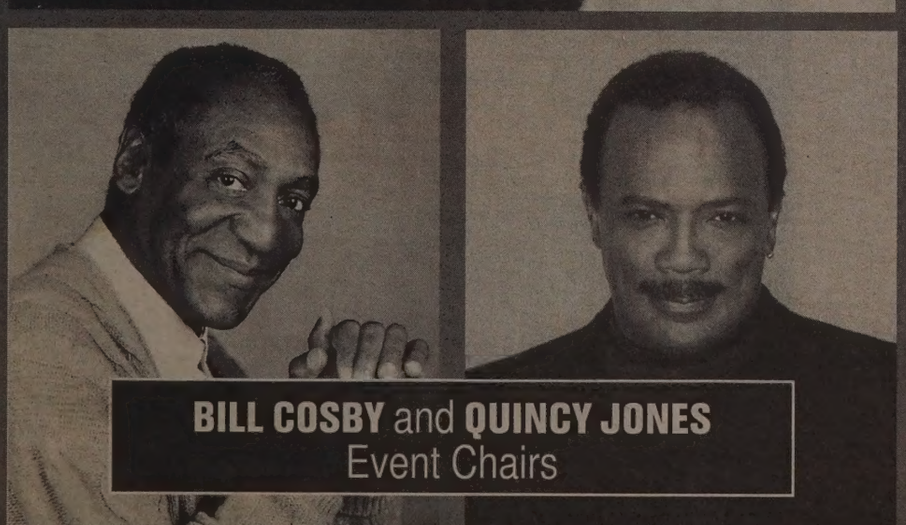

BILL COSBY and **QUINCY JONES**
Event Chairs

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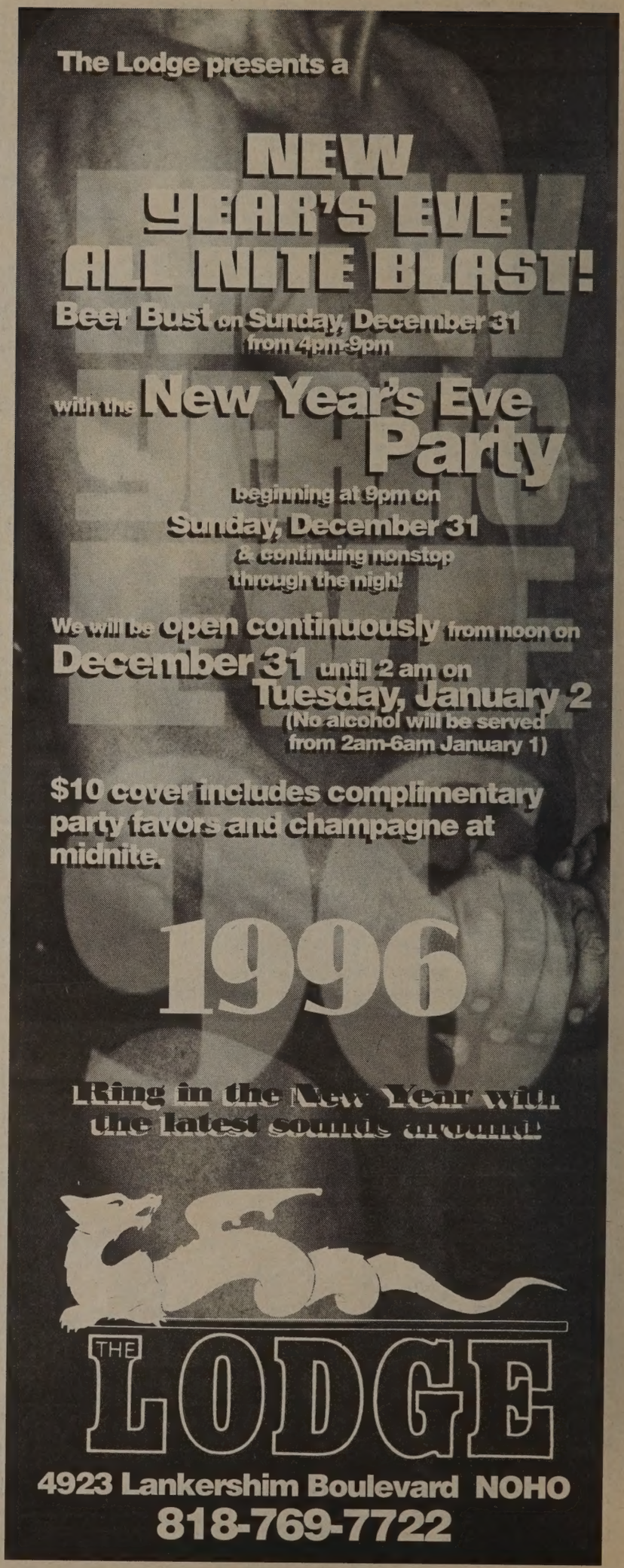
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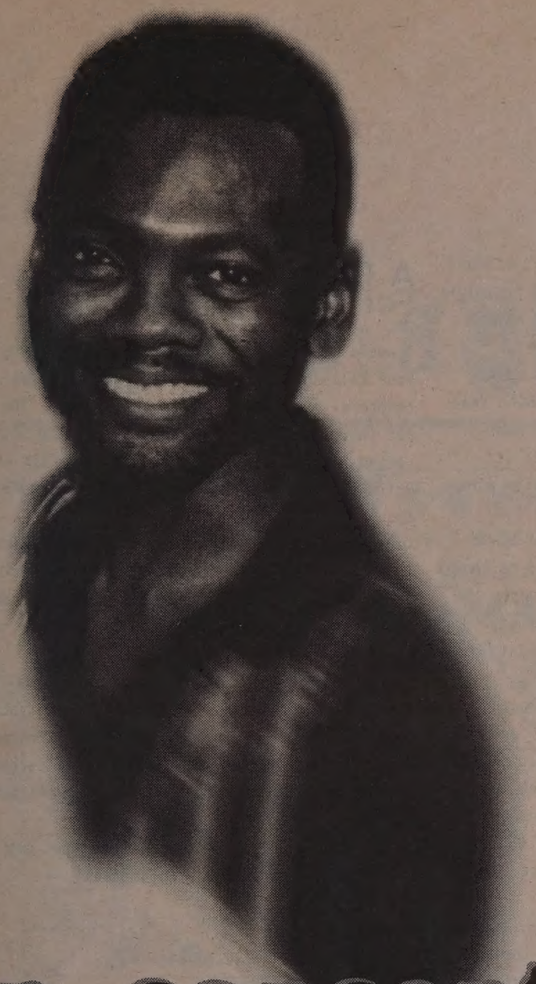


in concept

During this time of reflection on giving, sharing, thanking and counting our blessings which come in the form of family, friends and lovers–

During this time of reflection on educating, enlightening and inspiring ourselves and those around us–

During this time of reflection on personal dignity–

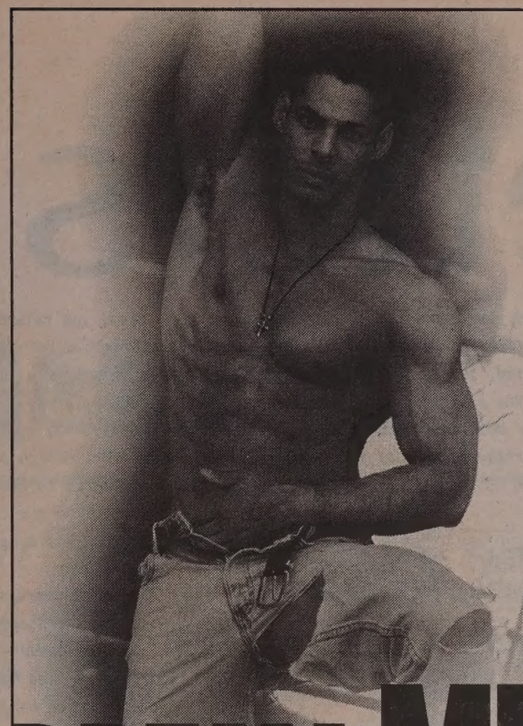
Let us take the energy of these reflecting flames and be moved to action for the good of humanity, for the good of ourselves.

That good which burns so deep inside of each of us compels us each to be a little kinder, a little wiser, a little happier, a little closer to the God of our own individual spiritual design. And, oh yes. A little more self-loving.

That good which burns so deep inside of each of us compels us each to be a little more than we were yesterday. To be a day older, a day better.

1996 belongs to you.
Have fun with it.

Stanley Bennett Clay



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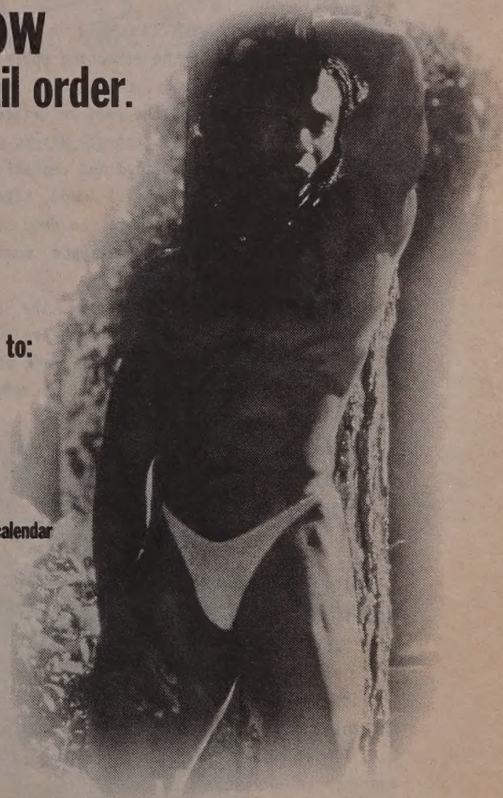

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letters

We gladly welcome your comments and letters. When writing, please include your telephone number which will not be printed, but is needed for verification only. It is not the policy of SBC to print unverifiable, unsigned or anonymous letters. Some letters may be edited for the purpose of space and/or clarity

A Centerfold of Consciousness Suitable For Framing

Your "Atonement" issue (Vol. 4 Issue 5) was fantastic! I really liked the format of before, during and after the [Million Man] March. And the idea of showing a mass of African American men embracing as the centerfold was also masterful.

As a member of BMX (Black Men's Xchange) since it's inception, I was appreciative of Cleo Manago's article "A Day of Replenishment From A Reflecting Pool of Black." The title alone was indicative of that wonderful, wonderful day on behalf of the entire African community, the ancestors, the present, and those yet to be. For certainly a day of replenishment from a pool denotes a people thirsty being satisfied.

The fact that the reflecting pool in Washington D.C. is reminiscent of the reflecting pools in the sacrad enclosures of Kemet, the land of the blacks, also known as Egypt, and the pool on October 16, 1996 reflects black denotes thirsty Blacks amid White Supremacy being satisfied and replenished by drinking up their own beautiful image. Like for like. Brothers, friends, lovers, an army of African warriors, bonded by common experience, common heritage and common taste.

Beautiful. Just beautiful! For me, the images and reality of the Million Man March are more erotic than pictures of individual black models could ever be and this issue of SBC is definitely suitable for framing.

Keep up the good work.

G.J. Coleman
Los Angeles, California

Good Question: Whose Leadership Is It, Anyway?

Dear Brother Andrew Irving:

I'd like to think your intentions in writing to the editor (Letters "Whose Leadership Is it Anyway" SBC Vol.4 Issue 7) in reaction to me were positive. But, I must admit, this idea is challenged by your approach to addressing me, or my (alleged) ideas. I couldn't help but sense within your message a personal agenda, cloaked as a community concern.

I'll be specific. You stated, "(Minister) Louis Farrakhan does not have a monopoly on revolution." My question is: Who said Minister Farrakhan had a monopoly on revolution? Not Me! Weren't you (supposedly) addressing my sentiments? Beyond the workings of your own mind (and agenda), how was this statement relative to my writings on Minister Farrakhan?

Also, you raised the issue of hypocrisy. I found this ironic being that you wrote a letter regarding me, framed as a question of me, [but was] never directed to me.

Lastly. Why would you pose the question, "Why would Mr. Manago praise Farrakhan?," to SBC's reading public, to people who are not me? You must know that no one can answer for me but me! It seems you would have asked me if you really wanted an answer.

It is my impression that your letter was more about YOUR concerns, conveniently espoused to the Black same-gender-loving (SGL) community under the guise of a Cleo Manago critique. This conduct reminds me of behavior I've seen among racist, self-centered Whites; this includes "gays" (Whites). They fear Black "leaders" encouraging Black self-determination could lead Blacks out of White emotional, mental and physical seduction and influence. So these Whites create irrelevant (but divisive) negative critique (like your monopoly comment) of Black leadership in an effort to perplex Blacks into discrediting certain Black "leaders".

They claim to be concerned about Blacks, but ultimately are selfishly concerned about losing their control and/or access to Blacks. In this case, it seems that you, like them, perceive my writings about Farrakhan's efforts, that don't devalue him, as "praising" him. If you're willing to read closely you will notice that I "praise" good work beneficial to the Black collective, including the Million Man March. Black people, regardless of sexuality, benefit from these efforts, but self-centered Whites don't.

I am an advocate and activist for the Black collective, same-gender-loving people and humanity. I don't condone homophobia regardless of its source--be it from Minister Farrakhan, family and friends, another homosexual, or Bill Clinton--as I don't condone White people's prescriptions for what's "in order" for Black people. This way of thinking is definitely "anti-me" and anti-Black (let alone racist).

My suggestion is, instead of posing as the White self-appointed (good intentions or not), anti-Farrakhan police for Black SGL people, admit that YOU don't like Minister Louis Farrakhan for YOUR reasons.

And while you're at it, admit that you (who I assume to be White) don't know what it's like to be Black dealing with the destructive consequences of White-supremacy that Farrakhan brilliantly addressed with the Million Man March.

Speaking again of hypocrisy, I hope you were moved enough to write the media with the same fervor, asking them why they lied about the number of men in attendance at the march. That was also "anti-me", anti-Black, anti-the truth and unprincipled, let alone disrespectful to the nearly 2 million of us who were there.

Cleo Manago
Founder, Black Men's Xchange
San Francisco, California

A British Brother Calls For Submissions

I would like to establish whether you or any of your colleagues are interested in contributing chapters to my forth coming book called "The Greatest Taboo". The book aims to outline the wide and varied Black perspectives on homosexuality in Britain without being homophobic or being derogatory.

In order for the book to be credible I want to maintain a balance by insuring that members of the lesbian and gay community's contribution is up to 50% of the total book irrespective of their perspectives or politics.

The issues that will be discussed are Religion; HIV and AIDS; homophobia in music; White racism and Black homosexuals; Coming out; Myths surrounding homosexuality; The Black & White media perceptions of homosexuality; Police attitudes toward anti-gay violence; Legislation, etc.

If you know of any other parties that may be interest please ask them to contact:

Pablo Imani
Think Doctor Publications
420A The High Road
Tottenham Haringey
London, England
N17 4HJ
Tel: 0191 808 4513 or 0181 885 4372

Thank you in advance,

Delroy Contantine-Simms
Academic researcher & writer
Totenham
London, England

Is Ron Singleton's Lens Of Single Focus?

First I want to thank you on the wonderful job you're doing for the Africentric man. There should be more cohesive methods such as yours.

I want to address something that is a concern for me: the photographs taken by Ron Singleton. He does extraordinary work, but I notice a trend that is in white America and it has seeped [into] communities of color. Most of his photographs are taken of men with well defined, muscular body structures.

Why I am voicing my concerns is that I'm an Africentric gay male who doesn't see enough of himself as it is, and to turn to SBC and see those pictures sadden me. My statue is only 5' 3", 107 lbs. and small frame, and I ask, where am I? Only a few of those picture don't fit the stereotype.

However, I continued to enjoy your news magazine and the information it has to offer.

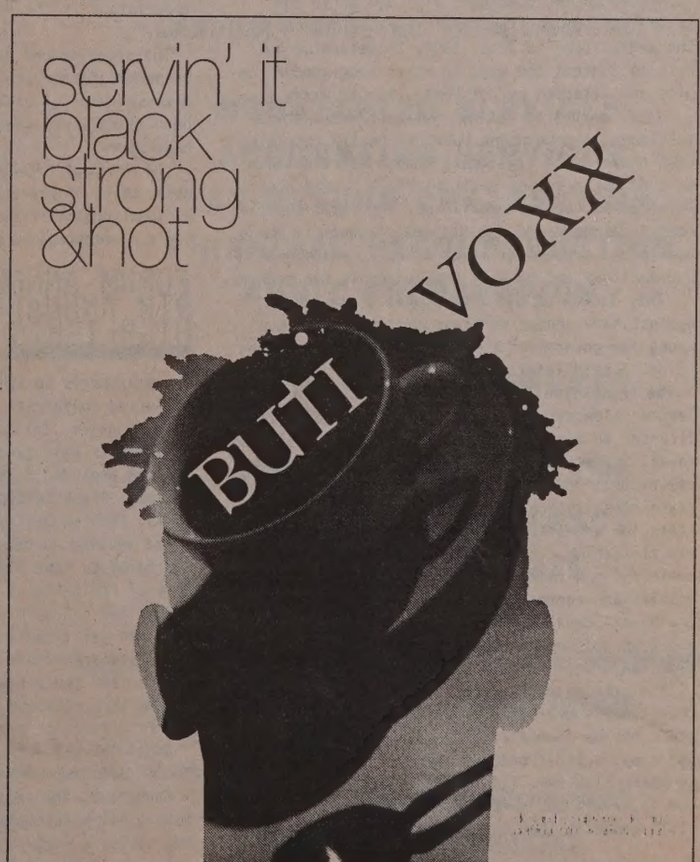
Derek Alfred
Seattle, Washington

the Black files

by A.G. Alexander

MAN! YOU ARE ONE FINE LOOKIN' BROTHER!
BUS STO
!?
☆₹@#©!! FAGGOT! WHAT YOU THINK I AM, A B#₹C☆ OR SOMETHIN'!? I'M A MAN!
POW!
LATER, DURING THE JAIL SENTENCE... (FOR ASSAULT)
..LIKE I WAS SAYIN', YOU ONE FINE LOOKIN' YOUNG BROTHER...
©A.G.ALEXANDER

A DAY IN THE LIFE BY BELASCO
SHOPPING SEPARATES THE MEN FROM TH' BOYS...
NUTHIN LIKE SHOPPIN' TO MAKE LIFE WORTHWHILE EH, DANE?
DRESSING ROOM
PLEASE, BILLY... YOU KNOW THE ONLY REASON I'M HERE IS CAUSE YOU BEGGED ME!
DANE, POOR MISGUIDED DANE YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW HOW THERAPUTIC SHOPPIN' IS...
"THERAPUTIC"?
YEAH, SHOPPIN' FOR CLOTHES IS LIKE BEING REBORN..
"REBORN"?! NOW I KNOW YOU TRIPPIN'.
NO, REALLY!... BUYIN' AN OUTFIT REPRESENTS THE SHEDDING OF TH' OLD YOU AND TH' BIRTH OF A BRAND NEW YOU!
Oh, LORD..
WITH EACH NEW ENSEMBLE YOU ARE ONE STEP CLOSER TO REVEALIN' TH' REAL YOU TO TH' WORLD!
!!!
BILLY, TH' "REAL" ME WANTS TO KNOW WHAT TH' "REAL" YOU IS STARIN' AT?!!
BELASCO©



news you can use 411

HAWAII STATE COMMISSION URGES LEGISLATURE TO LEGALIZE MARRIAGE FOR SAME-GENDER COUPLES

National Freedom to Marry Coalition Hails Historic Step

Honolulu, Hawaii--In an historic first, a Hawaii state government-created commission, specifically charged with studying the freedom to marry that is denied same-gender couples, forwarded a report to the state legislature on December 8, 1995 recommending Hawaii marriage laws be amended "to allow two people regardless of their gender to marry."

The report by the Hawaii Commission on Sexual Orientation and the Law, whose members were appointed by the governor, will now go to the state legislature. The commission was created by the legislature in June, 1994, to determine how best to address the ways in which same-gender couples are affected by not being able to marry.

"After months of intense research and witness testimony, a government body has finally concluded that there is no legitimate reason for the state to continue refusing civil marriage," said Rich Tafel of Log Cabin Republicans. Log Cabin Republicans is a member of the National Freedom to Marry Coalition, a broad alliance of city, state and national gay and non-gay groups across the country.

"They looked at all the arguments for and against same-gender marriage and concluded it's wrong for government to say 'no' to people saying 'I do,'" said Tafel.

The commission was created in response to a landmark lawsuit challenging the denial of civil licenses to same-gender couples. In May, 1993, the Hawaii Supreme Court ruled that the "same-gender restriction" on marriage appears to violate the state constitution. The Court held that unless the state can identify a "compelling" justification for discriminating, it must stop. The case, Baehr v. Lewin, is now before the lower court, where the couples are represented by co-counsel Dan Foley of the Hawaii Equal Rights Marriage Project (HERMP) and Evan Wolfson of Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund.

"The commission's report further strengthens our court challenge, clearly illustrating that the state has no 'compelling' reason to deny same-gender couples the freedom to marry," said Tom Ramsey, Co-Chair of HERMP. "If the legislature fails to end the discriminatory restriction on marriage, we're still confident that the Hawaii Supreme Court will, through the Baehr v. Lewin Case. It was less than 30 years ago that courts took a similar stand, ending the ban on interracial marriage."

The landmark report was hailed by leaders of gay and non-gay organizations nationwide as a key step in educating the public about how the denial of the freedom to marry harms couples and fosters inequality.

"Many Americans have never thought about marriage in connection with lesbian and gay people, or even about the reality that same-gender couples form families that need protection and deserve support," said Elizabeth Birch, Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign, a member of the National Freedom to Marry Coalition. "The commission did its homework and looked at equal marriage rights fairly and methodically. We invite the public, judges, and legislators in the rest of the country to do the same."

The seven-member commission, headed by highly-respected former Lt. Gov. Tom Gill, represented a diverse range of views. It's report has already been editorially endorsed by Hawaii's two leading newspapers.

The National Freedom to Marry Coalition is a broad association of gay and non-gay local, state and national organizations, working to educate the public and encourage support for same-gender marriage.

FORUM ANNOUNCES 9TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

E. Lynn Harris to Release New Book at Dallas Conference

Los Angeles, California--Best-selling author E. Lynn Harris will give the first major reading from his new book *And This Too Shall Pass*, at the National Black Lesbian and Gay Conference February 15-19, 1996 in Dallas, Texas.

The reading is one of several exciting events scheduled to take place at the 9th Annual Conference of the National Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Forum, the nation's oldest and largest Black lesbian and gay organization. Also at the conference. Drs. Sylvia Rhue and Dee Mosbacher and Frances Reid will screen their new film, "All God's Children", a documentary response to the radical right's homophobic efforts to exploit Black churches.

Other invited guest include Harvard Professor Cornel West and former Congresswoman Barbara Jordan.

Each year, the conference brings together more than 1,000 participants from across the country in the nation's largest gathering of African American lesbians and gays to address enlightening topics that affect the community. This year's conference theme, "Black Lesbians and Gays: Continuing the Struggle," celebrates the lives, legacies and ongoing work of African American lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities across the nation.

Previous conference speakers have included the Rev. Jesse Jackson, U.S. Representative Maxine Waters, former Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, Angela Davis, bell hooks, Bishop Carl Bean, *Essence* Magazine Executive Editor Linda Villarosa, Cambridge Mayor Ken Reeves, Dr. Marjorie Hill and writer/activists Audre Lorde, Essex Hemphill and Barbara Smith. Previous conference entertainers have included Chaka Khan, Natalie Cole, Whoopi Goldberg, Peabo Bryson and Me'shell NdegeO'cello.

Conference topics include men's and womyn's issues, personal development, grassroots activism, HIV/AIDS, spirituality, young adult issues, leadership and public policy. Highlight of the conference include the Annual Awards Banquet and Dance and the AIDS Memorial Service.

This year's conference will be held at the Harvey Hotel Brook Hollow, 7050 N. Stemmons; Dallas, Texas 75247, and is being hosted by Dallas Ujima.

NEW *READY FOR ACTION* POSITION AVAILABLE

Long Beach, California--Ready For Action, an outreach program to gay and bisexual men in the Long Beach area, has expanded activities to include workshops and a peer support group. To help these duties, Ready For Action will be hiring a part-time Group Facilitator.

The new position includes conducting workshops and co-facilitating a counseling group for men who have trouble staying safer. Duties also include arranging workshops conducted by other groups, and recruiting individuals for the workshops and groups. Because some activities take place in sites around Long Beach, including bars, applicants must be at least 21 and have their own transportation and auto insurance. Applicants must be able to interact comfortably with various cultural and ethnic populations of men who have sex with men.

The position is for fourteen hours a week and pays $9.97 an hour. Resumes may be faxed to 310.983.1421, or may be submitted in person at 1407 East Fourth Street. For more information, contact Michael Buitron at 310.495.21330 ext. 145. Refer to position #1329.

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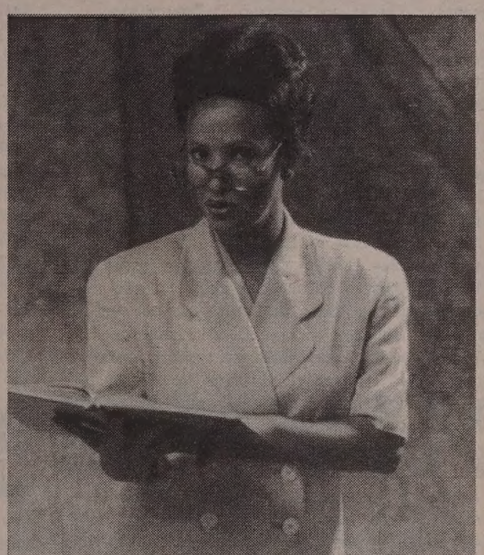

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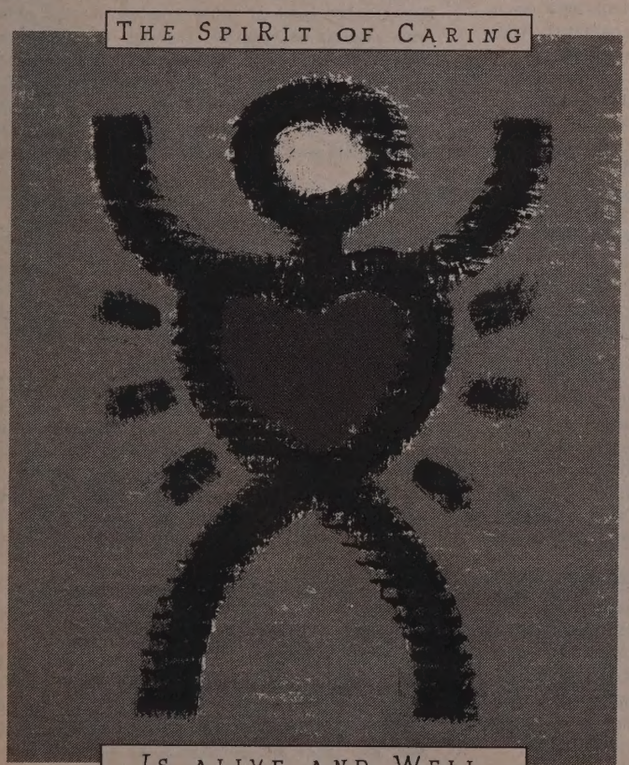

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THE L.A. GAY & LESBIAN CENTER PROTESTS NEW ANTI-IMMIGRANT LEGISLATION

New Report Shows Rise in Hate Crimes Against Immigrants

Los Angeles, California—The Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center was one of a dozen groups that took part in a candlelight vigil Monday, November 6, protesting proposed welfare reform legislation that threatens to significantly cut benefits to legal and undocument immigrants, denying them access to such programs as MediCal, Supplemental Security Income, student loans and many other federal benefits and social services. More than 200 people attended the vigil at the Federal Building in Downtown Los Angeles.

"In their relentless pursuit to find scapegoats for the country's economic woes, the Republican-controlled Congress has unleashed yet another unmerciful assault on American immigrants," said Roger Coggan, Director of Legal Services at the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center. "The immigrant issue is of particular concern to our community as some foreign countries unjustly persecute gay men and lesbians, forcing many to live in a climate of fear. The legislation threatens to further exacerbate that racial and social division in this country, fueling more intolerance and hate. Communities across this country—gay, straight, white, black, rich, poor—need to unite in fighting such anti-American legislation."

The landslide passage of Presidential Candidate Senator Bob Dole's "Work Opportunity Act of 1995" on September 19 promises to deprive millions of low-income and immigrant families from receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and nearly all other federal, state and local-based programs, including MediCal. In addition, under an amendment to Dole's bill, about 120,000 legal immigrants in California could lose close to $200 million in federal education aid, including Pell grants and other federal financial aid for students.

A new report released November 7 by The Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission documents a 23.5% increase in hate crimes against Latinos in 1994, coinciding with the anti-immigrant sentiment that led to the passage of Proposition 187. Some of the findings cited hate crimes directed specifically against gay and lesbian immigrants. More than 60% of the cases of civil rights violations, discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes investigated for this report involved citizens or legal permanent residents.

Because the gay and lesbian community faces unique immigrant issues, the Gay & Lesbian Center has established the immigration Law Project, the first of its kind. Those in need of immigration advice or support are encouraged to call the Immigration Law Project Coordinator Olga Sanchez-Gambirazzio at 213.993.7677.

The Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, with more than 210 staff and an annual budget of $16 million, is the world's largest gay and lesbian organization, one of the nation's leading HIV/AIDS care providers and equal rights advocate, and home to an array of free or low cost health, education, cultural and social programs serving thousands of ethnically divers youth and adults each month.

NEW LEATHER CLUB FORMED FOR CHICAGO'S MEN OF COLOR

Chicago, Illinois—A new social club has joined the SM, leather, fetish community in the Windy City: ONYX/chicago. The primary purpose of the club is to provide an educational and social outlet for African-American, Latino and Asian men and their friends involved or interested in the leather/SM/fetish scene.

As the number of men of color participating in various leather events increases, the organizers felt the need to form a group that would support and promote inclusion within the leather community at-large.

The first event will be a trip to the Mid-Atlantic Leather Weekend, January 12-15 1996 in Washington, D.C. More events, including club nights, are in the planning stages.

The club is also looking to correspond with individuals and other leather clubs for men of color nationally in order to form a social network.

To contact, join or correspond, please address all inquiries (along with a self-addressed stamped envelope) to the club administrator, Mufassa/ ONYX/Chicago/1340 Irving Park Rd. #188/Chicago, Il 60613.

EXPANDED LESBIAN, GAY AND BISEXUAL FUNDERS DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

New York, New York—The Working Group on Funding Lesbian and Gay Issues announces the publication of its newly expanded Funders of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Programs: A Directory for Grantseekers. The original Directory, published in September 1993 and the first of its kind, was created to provide information on potential funders for organizations and projects working with lesbian, gay and bisexual communities. The update furthers this goal by expanding the list of funders with over 50 additional entries. These additions provide information on local, regional and national funding of grants ranging from $500 to $50,000.

Despite the encouraging picture the Directory paints, with its list of 164 potential funders, the actual amount of support for lesbian, gay and bisexual organizations and projects remains below 1 percent of the total philanthropic dollars spent annually. "We are pleased to see other grantors are taking an interest in funding lesbian, gay and bisexual projects," states Marry Ann Snyder, Executive Director of the Chicago Resource Center and Co-Chair of the Working Group, " however, we remain one of only a few private foundations in the country with program areas dedicated to lesbian and gay issues."

The organizations listed in the Directory have provided financial support to lesbian, gay and/or bisexual programs. However, the extent of this support varies greatly, from exclusive funding of lesbian or gay projects, to awarding a single grant to a lesbian or gay organization. Although most of the entries fund programs only in their geographic area, a significant number also fund throughout the country.

The Working Group on Funding Lesbian and Gay Issues was formed in 1982 in response to the lack of visibility and funding for these issues in the philanthropic community. It is a volunteer organization comprised of individual donors and grantmakers from private, public, community and corporate foundations. The mission of the Working Group is to increase the philanthropic community's knowledge and understanding of critical funding needs in the lesbian, gay bisexual communities, and to educate communities and organizations serving gay men and lesbians about philanthropy and how to access philanthropic resources. To further these ends, the Working Group has also published a guide for funders entitled Reaching Out: A Grantmakers' Guide to Lesbian and Gay Issues.

"Although lesbians and gay men have done an admirable job in supporting their own communities over the years, the pressing needs of lesbians, gay and bisexual citizens for services and legal protection are much greater than the resources available," says Bob Crane, Vice President, Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation and Co-Chair, Working Group. "In addition, there remains an important educational task within the philanthropic community to promote understanding of and equal rights for people regardless of their sexual orientation. The working Group can play a significant role in this process."

The updated Directory is available from the Working Group for $10 (plus $2 for postage and handling). To order the Directory or for further information on the Working Group contact Nancy Cunningham, Executive Director, Working Group on Funding Lesbian and Gay Issues, 116 East 16th Street, 7th Floor, New York, New York 10001. Telephone: 212.475.2930. FAX: 212.982.3321

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR STUDY OF ACUPUNCTURE TREATMENT ON HIV/AIDS

Los Angeles, California—Traditional Chinese Medicine's effectiveness in treating a number if HIV/AIDS-related symptoms including stress, nausea, muscle weakness and fatigue has led researchers at the Jeffrey Goodman Special Care Clinic at the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center to embark on a 12-week study that will discover how regular acupuncture treatments affect the course, severity and outcome of HIV/AIDS-related symptoms. Participants are being sought for this study.

Established four years ago, the acupuncture program at the Jeffrey Goodman Special Care Clinic has treated hundreds of HIV/AIDS infected clients with regular acupuncture therapy. Researcher hope this new study will lend further credence to the validity of Eastern Medicine in the treatment of HIV and AIDS. Patient participants will be evaluated according to both Western laboratory values and Traditional Chinese Medicine diagnostic guidelines.

"Chines medicine and acupuncture have been practiced for 5,000 years," said Juan Ledesma, Director of Health Services, "yet only recently has it begun to gain acceptance in this country. We're very excited to finally document its benefits to people with HIV and AIDS. The results of the acupuncture treatment we offer Goodman Clinic clients has been very favorable."

Dr. Jan Steele, O.M.D., L.Ac., Acupuncture Services Program Manager, said "the study will target primarily individuals with symptomatic HIV." All participants, who must have between 200 and 500 T-cells, will submit blood samples and complete a variety of questionnaires to determine the effectiveness of the treatment. The enrollment period is open and the results of the study will be made public.

For more information on being a participant in the study, please call staff acupuncturist Lorraine Wilcox at 213.993.7537 ext. 304.

The Jeffrey Goodman Special Care Clinic at the Gay & Lesbian Center provides the most comprehensive "one-stop" system for HIV/AIDS care in the nation, offering the widest array of educational, medical, legal and psycho-social services available at any one agency—all at minimal or no cost.

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To learn more about EPIVIR (3TC), please see your doctor or other healthcare professional. EPIVIR and RETROVIR (AZT) are available by prescription only.

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Epivir™ Tablets (lamivudine tablets)

BRIEF SUMMARY

Epivir™ Oral Solution (lamivudine oral solution)

The following is a brief summary only. Before prescribing, see complete prescribing information in Epivir™ Tablets and Epivir™ Oral Solution product labeling.

WARNING: Epivir™ (lamivudine) is indicated for use in combination with Retrovir® (zidovudine) for the treatment of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection when antiretroviral therapy is warranted based on clinical and/or immunological evidence of disease progression. This indication is based on analyses of surrogate endpoints. At present, there are no results from controlled clinical trials evaluating the effect of therapy with Epivir plus Retrovir on the clinical progression of HIV infection, such as the incidence of opportunistic infections or survival.

Patients receiving Epivir plus Retrovir may continue to develop opportunistic infections and other complications of HIV infection, and therefore should remain under close observation by physicians experienced in the treatment of patients with HIV-associated diseases.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: Epivir™ Tablets and Oral Solution are contraindicated in patients with previously demonstrated clinically significant hypersensitivity to any of the components of the products.

WARNINGS: PANCREATITIS IN PEDIATRIC PATIENTS: IN PEDIATRIC PATIENTS WITH A HISTORY OF PANCREATITIS OR OTHER SIGNIFICANT RISK FACTORS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PANCREATITIS, THE COMBINATION OF EPIVIR™ AND RETROVIR® (ZIDOVUDINE) SHOULD BE USED WITH EXTREME CAUTION AND ONLY IF THERE IS NO SATISFACTORY ALTERNATIVE THERAPY. TREATMENT WITH EPIVIR SHOULD BE STOPPED IMMEDIATELY IF CLINICAL SIGNS, SYMPTOMS, OR LABORATORY ABNORMALITIES SUGGESTIVE OF PANCREATITIS OCCUR (SEE ADVERSE REACTIONS).

The complete prescribing information for Retrovir should be consulted before combination therapy with Epivir and Retrovir is initiated.

PRECAUTIONS:

Patients With Impaired Renal Function: Reduction of the dosage of Epivir™ is recommended for patients with impaired renal function (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY section of complete prescribing information and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

Information for Patients: Epivir is not a cure for HIV infection and patients may continue to experience illnesses associated with HIV infection, including opportunistic infections. Treatment with Epivir has not been shown to reduce the frequency of such illnesses and patients should remain under the care of a physician when using Epivir. Patients should be advised that the use of Epivir has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Patients should be advised that the long-term effects of Epivir are unknown at this time.

Epivir Tablets and Oral Solution are for oral ingestion only.

Patients should be advised of the importance of taking Epivir exactly as it is prescribed.

Parents or guardians should be advised to monitor pediatric patients for signs and symptoms of pancreatitis.

Drug Interaction: Trimethoprim (TMP) 160 mg/sulfamethoxazole (SMX) 800 mg once daily has been shown to increase lamivudine exposure (AUC). The effect of higher doses of TMP/SMX on lamivudine pharmacokinetics has not been investigated (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY section of complete prescribing information).

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, and Impairment of Fertility: Long-term carcinogenicity studies of lamivudine in animals have not yet been completed. Lamivudine was not active in a microbial mutagenicity screen or an *in vitro* cell transformation assay, but showed weak *in vitro* mutagenic activity in a cytogenetic assay using cultured human lymphocytes and in the mouse lymphoma assay. However, lamivudine showed no evidence of *in vivo* genotoxic activity in the rat at oral doses of up to 2,000 mg/kg (approximately 65 times the recommended human dose based on body surface area comparisons). In a study of reproductive performance, lamivudine, administered to rats at doses up to 130 times the usual adult dose based on body surface area comparisons, revealed no evidence of impaired fertility and no effect on the survival, growth, and development to weaning of the offspring.

Pregnancy: ***Pregnancy Category C:*** Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits at orally administered doses up to approximately 130 and 60 times, respectively, the usual adult dose and have revealed no evidence of harm to the fetus due to lamivudine. Some evidence of early embryolethality was seen in the rabbit at doses similar to those produced by the usual adult dose and higher, but there was no indication of this effect in the rat at orally administered doses up to 130 times the usual adult dose. Studies in pregnant rats and rabbits showed that lamivudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproductive toxicity studies are not always predictive of human response, lamivudine should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefits outweigh the risks.

Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry: To monitor maternal-fetal outcomes of pregnant women exposed to Epivir, an Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry has been established. Physicians are encouraged to register patients by calling (800) 722-9292, ext.58465.

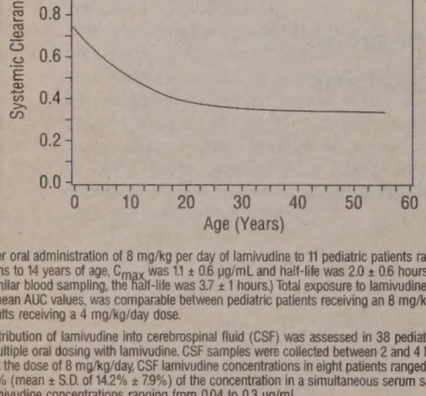
Nursing Mothers: A study in which lactating rats were administered 45 mg/kg of lamivudine showed that lamivudine concentrations in milk were slightly greater than those in plasma. Although it is not known if lamivudine is excreted in human milk, there is the potential for adverse effects from lamivudine in nursing infants. Mothers should be instructed to discontinue nursing if they are receiving lamivudine. This instruction is consistent with the Centers for Disease Control recommendation that HIV-infected mothers not breast feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV infection.

Pediatric Use: THERE ARE NO DATA ON THE USE OF EPIVIR IN COMBINATION WITH RETROVIR IN PEDIATRIC PATIENTS.

Lamivudine monotherapy was studied in one open-label, uncontrolled trial (study A2002) in 97 pediatric patients with the following demographics: male (56%), Caucasian (57%), median age of 7.7 years (range: 0.4 to 17.3 years), symptomatic HIV (84%), median duration of prior antiretroviral therapy (148 weeks), and median baseline CD4 of 132 cells/mm³. Pharmacokinetic properties of lamivudine were assessed in a subset of 57 patients (age range: 4.8 months to 16 years, weight range: 5 to 66 kg) after oral and IV administration of 1, 2, 4, 8, 12, and 20 mg/kg per day. In the 9 infants and children receiving 8 mg/kg per day (the usual recommended pediatric dose), absolute bioavailability was 66% ± 26% (mean ± S.D.), which is less than the 86% ± 16% (mean ± S.D.) observed in adolescents and adults. The mechanism for the diminished absolute bioavailability of lamivudine in infants and children is unknown.

Systemic clearance decreased with increasing age in pediatric patients, as shown in the following figure.

Systemic Clearance (L/hr•kg) of Lamivudine in Relation to Age



After oral administration of 8 mg/kg per day of lamivudine to 11 pediatric patients ranging from 4 months to 14 years of age, C_{max} was 1.1 ± 0.6 µg/mL and half-life was 2.0 ± 0.6 hours. (In adults with similar blood sampling, the half-life was 3.7 ± 1 hours.) Total exposure to lamivudine, as reflected by mean AUC values, was comparable between pediatric patients receiving an 8 mg/kg/day dose and adults receiving a 4 mg/kg/day dose.

Distribution of lamivudine into cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) was assessed in 38 pediatric patients after multiple oral dosing with lamivudine. CSF samples were collected between 2 and 4 hours postdose. At the dose of 8 mg/kg/day, CSF lamivudine concentrations in eight patients ranged from 5.6% to 30.9% (mean ± S.D. of 14.2% ± 7.9%) of the concentration in a simultaneous serum sample, with CSF lamivudine concentrations ranging from 0.04 to 0.3 µg/mL.

See INDICATIONS AND USAGE: Description of Clinical Studies section of complete prescribing information and WARNINGS, ADVERSE REACTIONS, and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION sections.

ADVERSE REACTIONS:

Adults: Selected clinical adverse events with a ≥5% frequency during therapy with Epivir™ 150 mg b.i.d. plus Retrovir® (zidovudine) 200 mg t.i.d. compared with zidovudine are listed in Table 1.

Epivir™ Tablets (lamivudine tablets)
Epivir™ Oral Solution (lamivudine oral solution)

Table 1: Selected Clinical Adverse Events (≥5% Frequency) in Four Controlled Clinical Trials (A3001, A3002, B3001, B3002)

Adverse Event	Epivir 150 mg b.i.d. plus Retrovir (n=251)	Retrovir (n=230)
Body as a whole		
Headache	35%	27%
Malaise and fatigue	27%	23%
Fever or chills	10%	12%
Digestive		
Nausea	33%	29%
Diarrhea	18%	22%
Nausea and vomiting	13%	12%
Anorexia and/or decreased appetite	10%	7%
Abdominal pain	9%	11%
Abdominal cramps	6%	3%
Dyspepsia	5%	5%
Nervous		
Neuropathy	12%	10%
Dizziness	10%	4%
Insomnia & other sleep disorders	11%	7%
Depressive disorders	9%	4%
Respiratory		
Nasal signs & symptoms	20%	11%
Cough	18%	13%
Skin & appendages		
Skin rashes	9%	6%
Musculoskeletal		
Musculoskeletal pain	12%	10%
Myalgia	8%	6%
Arthralgia	5%	5%

Pancreatitis was observed in 3 of the 656 adult patients (<0.5%) who received Epivir in controlled clinical trials.

Selected laboratory abnormalities observed during therapy are listed in Table 2.

Table 2: Frequencies of Selected Laboratory Abnormalities Among Adults in Four Controlled Clinical Trials (A3001, A3002, B3001, B3002)*

Test (Abnormal Level)	Epivir 150 mg b.i.d. Plus Retrovir % (n)	Retrovir % (n)
Neutropenia (ANC<750/mm³)	7.2% (237)	5.4% (222)
Anemia (Hgb<8.0 g/dL)	2.9% (241)	1.8% (218)
Thrombocytopenia (platelets<50,000/mm³)	0.4% (240)	1.3% (223)
ALT (>5.0 x ULN)	3.7% (241)	3.6% (224)
AST (>5.0 x ULN)	1.7% (241)	1.8% (223)
Bilirubin (>2.5 ULN)	0.8% (241)	0.4% (220)
Amylase (>2.0 ULN)	4.2% (72)	1.5% (133)

ULN=Upper limit of normal ANC=absolute neutrophil count n=Number of patients assessed
*Frequencies of these laboratory abnormalities were higher in patients with mild laboratory abnormalities at baseline.

Pediatric Patients: Limited information on the incidence of adverse events in children receiving lamivudine monotherapy is available from one open-label, uncontrolled study (see PRECAUTIONS: Pediatric Use section for description of study A2002). **Of 97 pediatric patients, 14 patients (14%) developed pancreatitis while receiving monotherapy with Epivir. In a second ongoing study in 47 pediatric patients (age range: 3 months to 18 years) enrolled in an open-label evaluation of Epivir/didanosine, Epivir/Retrovir, and Epivir/Retrovir/didanosine, 7 patients (15%) developed pancreatitis (see WARNINGS).**

Paresthesias and peripheral neuropathies were reported in 13 patients (13%) in study A2002 and resulted in treatment discontinuation in 3 patients.

Selected laboratory abnormalities during lamivudine therapy in children are listed in Table 3.

Table 3: Frequencies of Selected Laboratory Abnormalities in an Uncontrolled Phase I/II Clinical Trial of Epivir in 97 Pediatric Patients

Test (Abnormal Level)	Patients With Normal Baselines % (n)	Patients With Abnormal Baselines % (n)
Neutropenia (ANC<750/mm³)	22% (55)	45% (33)
Anemia (Hgb<8.0 g/dL)	2% (50)	24% (46)
Thrombocytopenia (platelets<40,000/mm³)	0% (68)	25% (12)
ALT (>5.0 x ULN)	4% (51)	29% (42)
AST (>5.0 x ULN)	0% (29)	19% (57)
Amylase (>2.0 ULN)	3% (69)	23% (13)

ULN=Upper limit of normal ANC=absolute neutrophil count n=Number of patients assessed

OVERDOSAGE: There is no known antidote for Epivir™. One case of an adult ingesting 6 g of Epivir was reported; there were no clinical signs or symptoms noted and hematologic tests remained normal. It is not known whether lamivudine can be removed by peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION: (See complete prescribing information in Epivir™ product labeling.)

Dose Adjustment: It is recommended that doses of Epivir be adjusted in accordance with renal function in patients older than age 16 years (see Table 4). (See CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY section.)

Table 4: Adjustment of Dosage of Epivir in Accordance With Creatinine Clearance

Creatinine Clearance (mL/min)	Recommended Dosage of Epivir
≥50	150 mg twice daily
30-49	150 mg once daily
15-29	150 mg first dose, then 100 mg once daily
5-14	150 mg first dose, then 50 mg once daily
<5	50 mg first dose, then 25 mg once daily

Insufficient data are available to recommend a dosage of Epivir™ in patients undergoing dialysis.

Manufactured under agreement from **BioChem Pharma Inc.**
275 Armand Frappier Blvd.
Laval, Quebec, Canada H7V 4A7
Epivir™ Oral Solution Manufactured in England
U.S. Patent 5,047,407
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GlaxoWellcome
Glaxo Wellcome Inc.
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

RETROVIR® (zidovudine) Capsules
RETROVIR® (zidovudine) Syrup

BRIEF SUMMARY

The following is a brief summary only. Before prescribing, see complete prescribing information in RETROVIR® Capsules and Syrup product labeling.

WARNING: RETROVIR (ZIDOVUDINE) MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH HEMATOLOGIC TOXICITY INCLUDING GRANULOCYTOPENIA AND SEVERE ANEMIA PARTICULARLY IN PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) DISEASE (SEE WARNINGS). PROLONGED USE OF RETROVIR HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH SYMPTOMATIC MYOPATHY SIMILAR TO THAT PRODUCED BY HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS.

RARE OCCURRENCES OF LACTIC ACIDOSIS IN THE ABSENCE OF HYPOXEMIA, AND SEVERE HEPATOMEGALY WITH STEATOSIS HAVE BEEN REPORTED WITH THE USE OF ANTIRETROVIRAL NUCLEOSIDE ANALOGUES, INCLUDING RETROVIR AND ZALCITABINE, AND ARE POTENTIALLY FATAL (SEE WARNINGS).

CONTRAINDICATIONS: RETROVIR Capsules and Syrup are contraindicated for patients who have potentially life-threatening allergic reactions to any of the components of the formulations.

WARNINGS: Note: The full safety and efficacy profile of RETROVIR has not been defined, particularly in regard to prolonged use in HIV-infected individuals who have less advanced disease (see INDICATIONS AND USAGE and CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Microbiology sections of full prescribing information and PRECAUTIONS: Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility). The incidence of adverse reactions appears to increase with disease progression, and patients should be monitored carefully, especially as disease progression occurs.

The safety profile of combination therapy with RETROVIR and zalcitabine reflects the individual safety profiles of each component. The complete prescribing information for zalcitabine should be consulted before combination therapy with RETROVIR and zalcitabine is initiated.

RETROVIR® (zidovudine) Capsules and Syrup

Bone Marrow Suppression: RETROVIR should be used with extreme caution in patients who have bone marrow compromise evidenced by granulocyte count <1000 cells/mm³ or hemoglobin <9.5 g/dL. In all of the placebo-controlled studies, but most frequently in patients with advanced symptomatic HIV disease, anemia and granulocytopenia were the most significant adverse events observed (see ADVERSE REACTIONS). There have been reports of pancytopenia associated with the use of RETROVIR, which was reversible in most instances after discontinuance of the drug.

Significant anemia most commonly occurred after 4 to 6 weeks of therapy and in many cases required dose adjustment, discontinuation of RETROVIR, and/or blood transfusions. Frequent blood counts are strongly recommended in patients with advanced HIV disease taking RETROVIR. For asymptomatic HIV-infected individuals and patients with early HIV disease, most of whom have better marrow reserve, blood counts may be obtained less frequently, depending upon the patient's overall status. If anemia or granulocytopenia develops, dosage adjustments may be necessary (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

Myopathy: Myopathy and myositis with pathological changes, similar to that produced by HIV disease, have been associated with prolonged use of RETROVIR.

Lactic Acidosis/Severe Hepatomegaly with Steatosis: Rare occurrences of lactic acidosis in the absence of hypoxemia, and severe hepatomegaly with steatosis have been reported with the use of antiretroviral nucleoside analogues, including RETROVIR and zalcitabine, and are potentially fatal; it is not known whether these events are causally related to the use of these drugs. Lactic acidosis should be considered whenever a patient receiving therapy with RETROVIR develops unexplained tachypnea, dyspnea, or fall in serum bicarbonate level. Under these circumstances, therapy with RETROVIR should be suspended until the diagnosis of lactic acidosis has been excluded. Caution should be exercised when administering RETROVIR to any patient, particularly obese women, with hepatomegaly, hepatitis, or other known risk factor for liver disease. These patients should be followed closely while on therapy with RETROVIR. The significance of elevated aminotransferase levels suggesting hepatic injury in HIV-infected patients prior to starting RETROVIR or while on RETROVIR is unclear. Treatment with RETROVIR should be suspended in the setting of rapidly elevating aminotransferase levels, progressive hepatomegaly, or metabolic/lactic acidosis of unknown etiology.

Other Serious Adverse Reactions: Several serious adverse events have been reported with use of RETROVIR in clinical practice. Reports of pancreatitis, sensitization reactions (including anaphylaxis in one patient), vasculitis, and seizures have been rare. These adverse events, except for sensitization, have also been associated with HIV disease. Changes in skin and nail pigmentation have been associated with the use of RETROVIR.

Use in Infancy: A positive test for HIV-antibody in children under 15 months of age may represent passively acquired maternal antibodies, rather than an active antibody response to infection in the infant. Thus, the presence of HIV-antibody in a child less than 15 months of age must be interpreted with caution, especially in the asymptomatic infant. Confirmatory tests such as serum p24 antigen or viral culture should be pursued in such children.

PRECAUTIONS:

General: Zidovudine is eliminated from the body primarily by renal excretion following metabolism in the liver (glucuronidation). In patients with severely impaired renal function, dosage reduction is recommended (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Pharmacokinetics section of full prescribing information and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION). Although very little data are available, patients with severely impaired hepatic function may be at greater risk of toxicity.

Information for Patients: RETROVIR is not a cure for HIV infections, and patients may continue to acquire illnesses associated with HIV infection, including opportunistic infections. Therefore, patients should be advised to seek medical care for any significant change in their health status.

The safety and efficacy of RETROVIR in women, intravenous drug users, and racial minorities[13] is not significantly different than that observed in white males.

Patients should be informed that the major toxicities of RETROVIR are granulocytopenia and/or anemia. The frequency and severity of these toxicities are greater in patients with more advanced disease and in those who initiate therapy later in the course of their infection. They should be told that if toxicity develops, they may require transfusions or dose modifications including possible discontinuation. They should be told of the extreme importance of having their blood counts followed closely while on therapy, especially for patients with advanced symptomatic HIV disease. They should be cautioned about the use of other medications, including ganciclovir and interferon-alpha, that may exacerbate the toxicity of RETROVIR (see PRECAUTIONS: Drug Interactions). Patients should be informed that other adverse effects of RETROVIR include nausea and vomiting. Patients should also be encouraged to contact their physician if they experience muscle weakness, shortness of breath, symptoms of hepatitis or pancreatitis, or any other unexpected adverse events while being treated with RETROVIR.

RETROVIR Capsules and Syrup are for oral ingestion only. Patients should be told of the importance of taking RETROVIR exactly as prescribed. They should be told not to share medication and not to exceed the recommended dose. Patients should be told that the long-term effects of RETROVIR are unknown at this time.

Pregnant women considering the use of RETROVIR during pregnancy for prevention of HIV-transmission to their infants should be advised that transmission may still occur in some cases despite therapy. The long-term consequences of *in utero* and infant exposure to RETROVIR are unknown.

HIV-infected pregnant women should be advised not to breast-feed to avoid postnatal transmission of HIV to a child who may not yet be infected.

Patients should be advised that therapy with RETROVIR has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Drug Interactions: ***Ganciclovir:*** Use of RETROVIR in combination with ganciclovir increases the risk of hematologic toxicities in some patients with advanced HIV disease. Should the use of this combination become necessary in the treatment of patients with HIV disease, dose reduction or interruption of one or both agents may be necessary to minimize hematologic toxicity. Hematologic parameters, including hemoglobin, hematocrit, and white blood cell count with differential, should be monitored frequently in all patients receiving this combination.

Interferon-alpha: Hematologic toxicities have also been seen when RETROVIR is used concomitantly with interferon-alpha. As with the concomitant use of RETROVIR and ganciclovir, dose reduction or interruption of one or both agents may be necessary, and hematologic parameters should be monitored frequently.

Bone Marrow Suppressive Agents/Cytotoxic Agents: Coadministration of RETROVIR with drugs that are cytotoxic or which interfere with RBC/WBC number or function (e.g., dapsone, flucytosine, vincristine, vinblastine, or adria-mycin) may increase the risk of hematologic toxicity.

Probenecid: Limited data suggest that probenecid may increase zidovudine levels by inhibiting glucuronidation and/or by reducing renal excretion of zidovudine. Some patients who have used RETROVIR concomitantly with probenecid have developed flu-like symptoms consisting of myalgia, malaise, and/or fever and maculopapular rash.

Phenytoin: Phenytoin plasma levels have been reported to be low in some patients receiving RETROVIR, while in one case a high level was documented. However, in a pharmacokinetic interaction study in which 12 HIV-positive volunteers received a single 300 mg phenytoin dose alone and during steady-state zidovudine conditions (200 mg every 4 hours), no change in phenytoin kinetics was observed. Although not designed to optimally assess the effect of phe-nytoin on zidovudine kinetics, a 30% decrease in oral zidovudine clearance was observed with phenytoin.

Methadone: In a pharmacokinetic study of nine HIV-positive patients receiving methadone-maintenance (30 to 90 mg daily) concurrent with 200 mg of RETROVIR every 4 hours, no changes were observed in the pharmacokinetics of methadone upon initiation of therapy with RETROVIR and after 14 days of treatment with RETROVIR. No adjustments in methadone-maintenance requirements were reported. For four patients, the mean zidovudine AUC was elevated two-fold, while for five patients, the value was equal to that of control patients. The exact mechanism and clinical significance of these data are unknown.

Fluconazole: The coadministration of fluconazole with RETROVIR has been reported to interfere with the oral clearance and metabolism of RETROVIR. In a pharmacokinetic interaction study in which 12 HIV-positive men received RETROVIR 200 mg every 8 hours alone and in combination with fluconazole 400 mg daily, fluconazole increased the zidovudine AUC (74%; range 28% to 173%) and the zidovudine half-life (128%; range -4% to 189%) at steady state.
The clinical significance of this interaction is unknown.

Atovaquone: Data from 14 HIV-infected volunteers who were given atovaquone tablets 750 mg every 12 hours with zidovudine 200 mg every 8 hours showed a 24% ± 12% decrease in zidovudine oral clearance, leading to a 35% ± 23% increase in plasma zidovudine AUC. The glucuronide metabolite:parent ratio decreased from a mean of 4.5 when zidovudine was administered alone to 3.1 when zidovudine was administered with atovaquone tablets. This effect is minor and would not be expected to produce clinically significant events. Zidovudine had no effect on atovaquone pharmacokinetics.

Valproic Acid: The concomitant administration of valproic acid 250 mg (n = 5) or 500 mg (n = 1) every 8 hours and zidovudine 100 mg orally every 8 hours for 4 days to six HIV-infected, asymptomatic male volunteers resulted in a 79% ± 61% (mean ± SD) increase in the plasma zidovudine AUC and a 22% ± 10% decrease in the plasma GZDV AUC as compared to the administration of zidovudine in the absence of valproic acid. The GZDV/zidovudine urinary excretion ratio decreased 58% ± 12%. Because no change in the zidovudine plasma half-life occurred, these results suggest that valproic acid may increase the oral bioavailability of zidovudine through inhibition of first-pass metabolism. Although the clinical significance of this interaction is unknown, patients should be monitored more closely for a possible increase in zidovudine-related adverse effects. The effect of zidovudine on the pharmacokinetics of valproic acid was not evaluated.

Other Nucleoside Analogues: Some experimental nucleoside analogues which are being evaluated in HIV-infected patients may affect RBC/WBC number or function and may increase the potential for hematologic toxicity of RETROVIR. Some experimental nucleoside analogues affecting DNA replication, such as ribavirin, antagonize the in vitro antiviral activity of RETROVIR against HIV and thus, concomitant use of such drugs should be avoided.

Other Agents: Some drugs such as trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, pyrimethamine, and acyclovir may be necessary for the management or prevention of opportunistic infections. In the placebo-controlled trial in patients with advanced HIV disease, increased toxicity was not detected with limited exposure to these drugs. However, there is one published report of neurotoxicity (profound lethargy) associated with concomitant use of RETROVIR and acyclovir. Preliminary data from a drug interaction study (n=10) suggest that coadministration of 200 mg RETROVIR and 600 mg rifampin decreases the area under the plasma concentration curve by an average of 48% ± 34%. However, the effect of once daily dosing of rifampin on multiple daily doses of RETROVIR is unknown.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Zidovudine was administered orally at three dosage levels to separate groups of mice and rats (60 females and 60 males in each group). Initial single daily doses were 30, 60, and 120 mg/kg/day in mice and 80, 220, and 600 mg/kg/day in rats. The doses in mice were reduced to 20, 30, and 40 mg/kg/day after day 90 because of treatment-related anemia, whereas in rats only the high dose was reduced to 450 mg/kg/day on day 91 and then to 300 mg/kg/day on day 279.

In mice, seven late-appearing (after 19 months) vaginal neoplasms (five non-metastasizing squamous cell carcinomas, one squamous cell papilloma, and one squamous polyp) occurred in animals given the highest dose. One late-appearing squamous cell papilloma occurred in the vagina of a middle dose animal. No vaginal tumors were found at the lowest dose.

In rats, two late-appearing (after 20 months), non-metastasizing vaginal squamous cell carcinomas occurred in animals given the highest dose. No vaginal tumors occurred at the low or middle dose in rats. No other drug-related tumors were observed in either sex of either species.

It is not known how predictive the results of rodent carcinogenicity studies may be for humans. At doses that produced tumors in mice and rats, the estimated drug exposure (as measured by AUC) was approximately 3 times (mouse) and 24 times (rat) the estimated human exposure at the recommended therapeutic dose of 100 mg every 4 hours.

No evidence of mutagenicity (with or without metabolic activation) was observed in the Ames *Salmonella* mutagenicity assay at concentrations up to 10 µg per plate, which was the maximum concentration that could be tested because of the antimicrobial activity of zidovudine against the *Salmonella* species. In a mutagenicity assay conducted in L5178Y/TK$^{+/-}$ mouse lymphoma cells, zidovudine was weakly mutagenic in the absence of metabolic activation only at the highest concentrations tested (4000 and 5000 µg/mL). In the presence of metabolic activation, the drug was weakly mutagenic at concentrations of 1000 µg/mL and higher. In an in vitro mammalian cell transformation assay, zidovudine was positive at concentrations of 0.5 µg/mL and higher. In an in vitro cytogenetic study performed in cultured human lymphocytes, zidovudine induced dose-related structural chromosomal abnormalities at concentrations of 3 µg/mL and higher. No such effects were noted at the two lowest concentrations tested, 0.3 and 1 µg/mL. In an in vivo cytogenetic study in rats given a single intravenous injection of zidovudine at doses of 37.5 to 300 mg/kg, there were no treatment-related structural or numerical chromosomal alterations in spite of plasma levels that were as high as 453 µg/mL 5 minutes after dosing.

In two in vivo micronucleus studies (designed to measure chromosome breakage or mitotic spindle apparatus damage) in male mice, oral doses of zidovudine 100 to 1000 mg/kg/day administered once daily for approximately 4 weeks induced dose-related increases in micronucleated erythrocytes. Similar results were also seen after 4 or 7 days of dosing at 500 mg/kg/day in rats and mice.

In a study involving 11 AIDS patients, it was reported that the seven patients who were receiving RETROVIR (1200 mg/day) as their only medication for 4 weeks to 7 months showed a chromosome breakage frequency of 8.29 ± 2.65 breaks per 100 peripheral lymphocytes. This was significantly ($P<0.05$) higher than the incidence of 0.5 ± 0.29 breaks per 100 cells that was observed in the four AIDS patients who had not received RETROVIR.

No effect on male or female fertility (judged by conception rates) was seen in rats given zidovudine orally at doses up to 450 mg/kg/day.

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category C. Oral teratology studies in the rat and in the rabbit at doses up to 500 mg/kg/day revealed no evidence of teratogenicity with zidovudine. Zidovudine treatment resulted in embryo/fetal toxicity as evidenced by an increase in the incidence of fetal resorptions in rats given 150 or 450 mg/kg/day and rabbits given 500 mg/kg/day. The doses used in the teratology studies resulted in peak zidovudine plasma concentrations (after one-half of the daily dose) in rats 66 to 226 times, and in rabbits 12 to 87 times, mean steady-state peak human plasma concentrations (after one-sixth of the daily dose) achieved with the recommended daily dose (100 mg every 4 hours). In an in vitro experiment with fertilized mouse oocytes, zidovudine exposure resulted in a dose-dependent reduction in blastocyst formation. In an additional teratology study in rats, a dose of 3000 mg/kg/day (very near the oral median lethal dose in rats of 3683 mg/kg) caused marked maternal toxicity and an increase in the incidence of fetal malformations. This dose resulted in peak zidovudine plasma concentrations 350 times peak human plasma concentrations. (Estimated area-under-the-curve [AUC] in rats at this dose level was 300 times the daily AUC in humans given 600 mg per day.) No evidence of teratogenicity was seen in this experiment at doses of 600 mg/kg/day or less.

A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial was conducted in HIV-infected pregnant women to determine the utility of RETROVIR for the prevention of maternal-fetal HIV-transmission (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Description of Clinical Studies section of full prescribing information). Congenital abnormalities occurred with similar frequency between infants born to mothers who received RETROVIR and infants born to mothers who received placebo. Abnormalities were either problems in embryogenesis (prior to 14 weeks) or were recognized on ultrasound before or immediately after initiation of study drug.

Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry: To monitor maternal-fetal outcomes of pregnant women exposed to RETROVIR, an Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry has been established. Physicians are encouraged to register patients by calling (800) 722-9292, ext. 58465.

Nursing Mothers: The U.S. Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises HIV-infected women not to breast-feed to avoid postnatal transmission of HIV to a child who may not yet be infected.

It is not known whether zidovudine is excreted in human milk or whether RETROVIR reduces the potential for transmission of HIV in breast milk. Lactating mice administered zidovudine (200 mg/kg intraperitoneally) were found to have milk concentrations of zidovudine five times the corresponding serum zidovudine concentration. Milk concentrations of zidovudine declined at a slower rate than serum zidovudine concentrations.

Pediatric Use: See INDICATIONS, ADVERSE REACTIONS, and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION sections.

ADVERSE REACTIONS:

Monotherapy: ***Adults:*** The frequency and severity of adverse events associated with the use of RETROVIR in adults are greater in patients with more advanced infection at the time of initiation of therapy. The following table summarizes the relative incidence of hematologic adverse events observed in clinical studies by severity of HIV disease present at the start of treatment.

Table 1

Stage of Disease	RETROVIR Daily Dose* (mg)	Granulocytopenia (<750 cells/mm^3)	Anemia (Hgb <8.0 g/dL)
Asymptomatic ACTG 019[3]	500	1.8%[†]	1.1%[†]
Early HIV Disease (CD4 >200 cells/mm^3) ACTG 016[4]	1200	4%	4%
Advanced HIV Disease (CD4 >200 cells/mm^3) BW 02[1]	1500	10%[†]	3%[†‡]
(CD4 ≤ 200 cells/mm^3) ACTG 002[2]	600	37%	29%
BW 02[1]	1500	47%	29%[†]

* The currently recommended dose is 500 to 600 mg daily.
† Not statistically significant compared to placebo.
‡ Anemia = Hgb <7.5 g/dL.

The anemia reported in patients with advanced HIV disease receiving RETROVIR appeared to be the result of impaired erythrocyte maturation as evidenced by macrocytosis while on drug. Although mean platelet counts in patients receiving RETROVIR were significantly increased compared to mean baseline values, thrombocytopenia did occur in some of these patients with advanced disease.* Twelve percent of patients receiving RETROVIR compared to 5% of patients receiving placebo had >50% decreases from baseline platelet count. Mild drug-associated elevations in total bilirubin levels have been reported as an uncommon occurrence in patients treated for asymptomatic HIV infection.

The HIV-infected adults participating in these clinical trials often had baseline symptoms and signs of HIV disease and/or experienced adverse events at some time during study. It was often difficult to distinguish adverse events possibly associated with administration of RETROVIR from underlying signs of HIV disease or intercurrent illnesses. The following table summarizes clinical adverse events or symptoms which occurred in at least 5% of all patients with advanced HIV disease treated with 1500 mg/day of RETROVIR in the original placebo-controlled study.[5] Of the items

listed in the table, only severe headache, nausea, insomnia, and myalgia were reported at a significantly greater rate in patients receiving Retrovir.

Table 2
Percentage (%) of Patients with Clinical Events in Advanced HIV Disease (BW 02)

Adverse Event	RETROVIR 1500 mg/day* (n=144) %	Placebo (n=137) %
BODY AS A WHOLE		
Asthenia	19	18
Diaphoresis	5	4
Fever	16	12
Headache	42	37
Malaise	8	7
GASTROINTESTINAL		
Anorexia	11	8
Diarrhea	12	18
Dyspepsia	5	4
GI Pain	20	19
Nausea	46	18
Vomiting	6	3
MUSCULOSKELETAL		
Myalgia	8	2
NERVOUS		
Dizziness	6	4
Insomnia	5	1
Paresthesia	6	3
Somnolence	8	9
RESPIRATORY		
Dyspnea	5	3
SKIN		
Rash	17	15
SPECIAL SENSES		
Taste Perversion	5	8

*The currently recommended dose is 500 to 600 mg daily.

All events of a severe or life-threatening nature were monitored for adults in the placebo-controlled studies in early HIV disease and asymptomatic HIV infection. Data concerning the occurrence of additional signs or symptoms were also collected. No distinction was made in reporting events between those possibly associated with the administration of the study medication and those due to the underlying disease. The following tables summarize all those events reported at a statistically significant greater incidence for patients receiving RETROVIR in these studies:

Table 3
Percentage (%) of Patients with Adverse Events in Early HIV Disease (ACTG 016)

Adverse Event	RETROVIR 1200 mg/day* (n=361) %	Placebo (n=352) %
BODY AS A WHOLE		
Asthenia	69	62
GASTROINTESTINAL		
Dyspepsia	6	1
Nausea	61	41
Vomiting	25	13

*The currently recommended dose is 500 to 600 mg daily.

Table 4
Percentage (%) of Patients with Adverse Events* in Asymptomatic HIV Infection (ACTG 019)

Adverse Event	RETROVIR 500 mg/day* (n=453) %	Placebo (n=428) %
BODY AS A WHOLE		
Asthenia	8.6[†]	5.8
Headache	62.5	52.6
Malaise	53.2	44.9
GASTROINTESTINAL		
Anorexia	20.1	10.5
Constipation	6.4[†]	3.5
Nausea	51.4	29.9
Vomiting	17.2	9.8
NERVOUS		
Dizziness	17.9[†]	15.2

* Reported in ≥5% of study population.
† Not statistically significant versus placebo.

Several serious adverse events have been reported with the use of RETROVIR in clinical practice. Myopathy and myositis with pathological changes, similar to that produced by HIV disease, have been associated with prolonged use of RETROVIR. Reports of hepatomegaly with steatosis, hepatitis, pancreatitis, lactic acidosis, sensitization reactions (including anaphylaxis in one patient), hyperbilirubinemia, vasculitis, and seizures have been rare. These adverse events, except for sensitization, have also been associated with HIV disease. A single case of macular edema has been reported with the use of RETROVIR.

Additional adverse events reported in clinical trials at a rate not significantly different from placebo are listed below. Selected events from post-marketing clinical experience with RETROVIR are also included. Many of these events may also occur as part of HIV disease. The clinical significance of the association between treatment with RETROVIR and these events is unknown.

Body as a Whole: abdominal pain, back pain, body odor, chest pain, chills, edema of the lip, fever, flu syndrome, hyperalgesia.
Cardiovascular: syncope, vasodilation.
Gastrointestinal: bleeding gums, constipation, diarrhea, dysphagia, edema of the tongue, eructation, flatulence, mouth ulcer, rectal hemorrhage.
Hemic and Lymphatic: lymphadenopathy.
Musculoskeletal: arthralgia, muscle spasm, tremor, twitch.
Nervous: anxiety, confusion, depression, dizziness, emotional lability, loss of mental acuity, nervousness, paresthesia, somnolence, vertigo.
Respiratory: cough, dyspnea, epistaxis, hoarseness, pharyngitis, rhinitis, sinusitis.
Skin: acne, changes in skin and nail pigmentation, pruritus, rash, sweat, urticaria.
Special senses: amblyopia, hearing loss, photophobia, taste perversion.
Urogenital: dysuria, polyuria, urinary frequency, urinary hesitancy.

Pediatrics: Anemia and granulocytopenia among children with advanced HIV disease receiving RETROVIR occurred with similar incidence to that reported for adults with AIDS or advanced ARC (see above). Management of neutropenia and anemia included, in some cases, dose modification and/or blood product transfusions. In the open-label studies, 17% had their dose modified (generally a reduction in dose by 30%) due to anemia and 25% had their dose modified (temporary discontinuation or dose reduction by 30%) for neutropenia. Four children had RETROVIR permanently discontinued for neutropenia. The following table summarizes the occurrence of anemia (Hgb <7.5 g/dL) and granulocytopenia (<750 cells/mm^3) among 124 children receiving RETROVIR for a mean of 267 days (range 3 to 855 days):

Table 5

	Granulocytopenia (<750 cells/mm^3)		Anemia (Hgb <7.5 g/dL)	
	n	%	n	%
Advanced Pediatric HIV Disease (n=124)	48	39	28*	23

* Twenty-two children received one or more transfusions due to a decline in hemoglobin to <7.5 g/dL; an additional 15 children were transfused for hemoglobin levels >7.5 g/dL. Fifty-nine percent of the patients transfused had a pre-study history of anemia or transfusion requirement.

Macrocytosis was observed among the majority of children enrolled in the studies.

In the open-label studies involving 124 children, 16 clinical adverse events were reported by 24 children. No event was reported by more than 5.6% of the study populations. Due to the open-label design of the studies, it was difficult to determine possible events related to the use of RETROVIR versus disease-related events. Therefore, all clinical events reported as associated with therapy with RETROVIR or of unknown relationship to therapy with RETROVIR are presented in the following table:

Table 6
Percentage (%) of Pediatric Patients with Clinical Events in Open-Label Studies

Adverse Event	n	%
BODY AS A WHOLE		
Fever	4	3.2
Phlebitis*/Bacteremia	2	1.6
Headache	2	1.6
GASTROINTESTINAL		
Nausea	1	0.8
Vomiting	6	4.8
Abdominal Pain	4	3.2
Diarrhea	1	0.8
Weight Loss	1	0.8
NERVOUS		
Insomnia	3	2.4
Nervousness/Irritability	2	1.6
Decreased Reflexes	7	5.6
Seizure	1	0.8
CARDIOVASCULAR		
Left Ventricular Dilation	1	0.8
Cardiomyopathy	1	0.8
S_3 Gallop	1	0.8
Congestive Heart Failure	1	0.8
Generalized Edema	1	0.8
ECG Abnormality	3	2.4
UROGENITAL		
Hematuria/Viral Cystitis	1	0.8

* Peripheral vein I.V. catheter site.

The clinical adverse events reported among adult recipients of RETROVIR may also occur in children.

Use for the Prevention of Maternal-Fetal Transmission of HIV: In a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial in HIV-infected women and their infants conducted to determine the utility of RETROVIR for the prevention of maternal-fetal HIV transmission, RETROVIR Syrup at 2 mg/kg was administered every 6 hours for 6 weeks to infants beginning within 12 hours after birth. The most commonly reported adverse experiences were anemia (hemoglobin <9.0 g/dL) and neutropenia (<1000 cells/mm^3). Anemia occurred in 22% of the infants who received RETROVIR and in 12% of the infants who received placebo. The mean difference in hemoglobin values was less than 1.0 g/dL for infants receiving RETROVIR compared to infants receiving placebo. No infants with anemia required transfusion and all hemoglobin values spontaneously returned to normal within 6 weeks after completion of therapy with RETROVIR. Neutropenia was reported with similar frequency in the group that received RETROVIR (21%) and in the group that received placebo (27%). The long-term consequences of *in utero* and infant exposure to RETROVIR are unknown.

Combination Therapy with RETROVIR and Zalcitabine: The safety profile of combination therapy with RETROVIR and zalcitabine reflects the individual safety profile of each component. The complete prescribing information for zalcitabine should be consulted before combination therapy with RETROVIR and zalcitabine is initiated.

OVERDOSAGE: Cases of acute overdoses in both children and adults have been reported with doses up to 50 grams. None were fatal. The only consistent finding in these cases of overdose was spontaneous or induced nausea and vomiting. Hematologic changes were transient and not severe. Some patients experienced nonspecific CNS symptoms such as headache, dizziness, drowsiness, lethargy, and confusion. One report of a grand mal seizure possibly attributable to RETROVIR occurred in a 35-year-old male 3 hours after ingesting 36 grams of RETROVIR. No other cause could be identified. All patients recovered without permanent sequelae. Hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis appear to have a negligible effect on the removal of zidovudine while elimination of its primary metabolite, GZDV, is enhanced.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION:

Monotherapy: ***Adults:*** For adults with symptomatic HIV infection, including AIDS, the recommended oral dose is 100 mg (one 100 mg capsule or 2 teaspoonfuls [10 mL] syrup) every 4 hours (600 mg total daily dose). The effectiveness of this dose compared to higher dosing regimens in improving the neurologic dysfunction associated with HIV disease is unknown. A small randomized study found a greater effect of higher doses of RETROVIR on improvement of neurological symptoms in patients with pre-existing neurological disease.

For asymptomatic HIV infection, the recommended dose for adults is 100 mg administered orally every 4 hours while awake (500 mg/day).

Pediatrics: The recommended dose in children 3 months to 12 years of age is 180 mg/m^2 every 6 hours (720 mg/m^2 per day), not to exceed 200 mg every 6 hours.

Maternal-Fetal HIV Transmission: The recommended dosing regimen for administration to pregnant women (>14 weeks of pregnancy) and their newborn infants is:

Maternal Dosing: 100 mg orally five times per day until the start of labor. During labor and delivery, intravenous RETROVIR should be administered at 2 mg/kg (total body weight) over 1 hour followed by a continuous intravenous infusion of 1 mg/kg/h (total body weight) until clamping of the umbilical cord.

Infant Dosing: 2 mg/kg orally every 6 hours starting within 12 hours after birth and continuing through 6 weeks of age. Infants unable to receive oral dosing may be administered RETROVIR intravenously at 1.5 mg/kg, infused over 30 minutes, every 6 hours. (See PRECAUTIONS if hepatic disease or renal insufficiency is present.)

Combination Therapy with RETROVIR and Zalcitabine: The recommended dosage regimen consists of RETROVIR 200 mg taken orally with zalcitabine 0.75 mg every 8 hours.

Monitoring of Patients: Hematologic toxicities appear to be related to pretreatment bone marrow reserve and to dose and duration of therapy. In patients with poor bone marrow reserve, particularly in patients with advanced symptomatic HIV disease, frequent monitoring of hematologic indices is recommended to detect serious anemia or granulocytopenia (see WARNINGS). In patients who experience hematologic toxicity, reduction in hemoglobin may occur as early as 2 to 4 weeks, and granulocytopenia usually occurs after 6 to 8 weeks.

Dose Adjustment: Significant anemia (hemoglobin of <7.5 g/dL or reduction of >25% of baseline) and/or significant granulocytopenia (granulocyte count of <750 cells/mm^3 or reduction of >50% from baseline) may require a dose interruption until evidence of marrow recovery is observed (see WARNINGS). For less severe anemia or granulocytopenia, a reduction in daily dose may be adequate. In patients who develop significant anemia, dose modification does not necessarily eliminate the need for transfusion. If marrow recovery occurs following dose modification, gradual increases in dose may be appropriate depending on hematologic indices and patient tolerance.

In end-stage renal disease patients maintained on hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis, recommended dosing is 100 mg every 6 to 8 hours (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Pharmacokinetics section of full prescribing information).

There are insufficient data to recommend dose adjustment of RETROVIR in patients with impaired hepatic function.

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GlaxoWellcome
Glaxo Wellcome Inc.
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Keith Bo

He was born in St. Louis, Missouri 31 years ago, where he lived for 15 years be- fore attending high school in Florida. He received his bachelor of arts degree from Dartmouth College, where he was editor-in-chief of The Dartmouth daily newspaper, the oldest college newspaper in America, and served as president of the corporation that owns the paper.

He also attended Harvard Law. It was during those Ivy league days that he came out of the closet and became open about his homosexuality.

After receiving his law degree, he was offered a lucrative position with a prestigious San Francisco firm but turned it down to work on the presidential campaign of an Arkansas Governor.

This landed him on the White House staff where he worked extensively on African-American and gay and lesbian outreach efforts. He also helped to organize and participate in the first meeting between gay and lesbian leaders and a President of the United States.

He drafted President Clinton's statement on the 1993 Gay & Lesbian March on Washington and the President's letter opposing anti-gay ballot initiatives circulating in several states.

His father is a magazine publisher in Chicago and his mother works for the federal government in Texas.

"My mother, throughout my life, told me one thing," he remembers, "Don't let anybody tell you what to do. Live your own life. My father always maintained an independence through owning his own businesses. I have that independent strand.

"When I was a teenager I read the Bible and Malcolm. They were two of the most influential pieces of reading for me because The Bible taught me the message of love and liberation and Malcolm X taught me the lesson of pride and liberation. Liberation was the common theme of both of them."

And Liberation is indeed a concern always constant with community and political activist Keith Boykin, now the newly appointed Executive Director of The National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum.

Maintaining offices in Washington D.C. and Los Angeles, California, Boykin, who recently completed the nonfiction book, One More River to Cross: Black & Gay in America (Doubleday/Anchor 1996), wants to encourage real strength through real unity, the coming together of all the factions within and who effect the Black gay and lesbian community, a dialogue between the different communities, and an assertiveness borne out of self-pride and self-reliance.

The infusion of new blood into one of our community's more senior organizations is much-needed. Mr. Boykin, graciously articulate and in possession of scholarly good-looks and a guarded, east coast charm that may prove to serve him well, seems to be new blood.

Now let's just hope the transfusion takes.

STANLEY BENNETT CLAY: There's a new national focus for the Forum.

KEITH BOYKIN: At the September board meeting we decided to change and become the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. The new structure includes 25 board members from across the nation.

The decision was made to make the organization a national voice for African American lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgenders, aggressively working for individuals and working as a resource network for organizations.

SBC: Aside from the obvious change--becoming a national organization-- what specifically is the new agenda.

KB: We have a constructive and a destructive mission. Constructively our goal is to build bridges between the various communities out there--the Black community, the gay and lesbian community, the women's community. We feel that we're better positioned for that, not just as an organization but as individuals.

To do this community bridge-building, we have a destructive mission, that is, to destroy the walls of racism and sexism and homophobia that divide people in our community, that attempt to separate African American lesbians and gay men from the rest of the Black community and the gay community.

SBC: Can you be more specific on the racism issue. We're dealing with a Black organization in the Black community, so where in the Black community are you talking about the destruction of the walls of racism?

KB: Our work is not limited to what we do in the Black community, but it's a reaching out to all the various communities, including the gay and lesbian community where we know that there is a good deal of racism.

Just because people are gay or lesbian does not mean that they don't harbor racial biases. There is racism in the white gay community just as there is homophobia in the Black community. Our mission, our goal is to oppose racism, sexism and homophobia wherever it may exist, even in our own communities. We all know of examples of people who have, in the past and still today, have denied entry into various night clubs and establishments or asked to present multiple forms of identification because of their race. This is still going on in the gay and lesbian supposedly 'enlightened' community. So it is important for us to take that on, to challenge that.

A few weeks ago there was an incident where the leaders of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation put out a press release comparing the Million Man March to the 1993 Gay and Lesbian March on Washington. In that release they stated that they were disappointed with the coverage given the Million Man March because it was disproportionate compared to the coverage given the Gay and Lesbian March. Now there are a lot of problems with that analysis. You can't just compare the number of stories because that's like comparing apples and oranges. All those stories about the Million Man March were not necessarily positive. Many of the stories were critical of Mr. Farrakahn and many of the other organizers. But the idea of pitting ourselves against each other--the Black community and the gay and lesbian community--is wrong. And that's what that press release was doing; dividing those communities and failing to recognize that there are people who are a part of both of those communities.

I don't know if I would call that [press release] racism, but it certainly represents a racial insensitivity that exist in the white gay community.

We've been involved in--and will continue to be involved in--sensitizing people, educating them, teaching them more about who we are.

In regards to the Million Man March, we were concerned about some homophobia coming out of the Black community. People like Mr. Farrakhan have made comments aside from his sexist and anti-Semitic comments that were, quite frankly, homophobic. And we thought

FROM THE WHITE HOUSE TO THE BLACK FORUM

BGLLF Gets a New Executive Director and a New National Focus

BY STANLEY BENNETT CLA

it was important as an openly gay and lesbian contingent to be there, to be visible, open and proud of who we are.

SBC: BGLLF, over the years, has been looked upon by some in the Black gay and lesbian community as an NAACP kind of organization.

KB: Is that good or bad?

SBC: Well, it's almost 1996. You tell me. There is the perception that there is a need for Black gays and lesbians to find a place in the white gay community. Integration as opposed to self-reliance.

KB: I believe, as others have said, that nobody can free us but ourselves. We have an obligation as Black lesbians and gay men to be out on the front lines in all of our communities. That means we have to visible. We can't just hide in our closets anymore and expect other people to fight the fight for us.

There are lots of issues that we need to be facing in our own communities, challenging homophobia in the Black community. Now I want to say that in the context of also saying I don't think African Americans are any more homophobic as a community or population than anyone else. In fact, most of the polling that I have seen suggests that Black people are less homophobic than white people. Black politicians and elected office holders are far more likely to be supportive of gay and lesbian rights than their white counterparts.

Now, having made that claim and distinction, I think that we need to be out there aggressively challenging what goes on in the Black church. We need to be out there challenging what goes on in our own families, among our friends and in the work place. There are enough examples of homophobia in the Black community to keep us quite busy for a long time. We can complain about white gay and lesbian people talking about these issues, but that does not exculpate us from the responsibility of being active ourselves. We need to be attacking those issues in our community.

I could never understand why, on some issues, we are not more aggressive. Some people are, but I don't think that we as a Black gay and lesbian community are as aggressive in dealing with the Black church as we should be. And what happens is that you get people like the Rev. Lou Sheldon, an ultra conservative white minister from the radical right, coming into our community and telling people in the Black church how to deal with homosexuality.

We don't need that. We don't respect that. We have plenty of homosexuals in our churches, in the pulpits, in the choirs and everywhere else. We need to start a dialogue ourselves, honestly and openly. We need to ask ourselves, as Black lesbians and gay men, to challenge the preachers and challenge the deacons and others who engage in homophobia in our churches. We need to put an end to that.

AIDS is the leading cause of death for African American men between the ages of 25 and 44. And there are so many churches in our community that don't even acknowledge that this is an issue for our community. 53% of all babies with AIDS are African American. 2/3 of all the people world-wide infected with the virus are of African decent.

So there is a racial component to this that our churches are very myopically ignoring. And when I ask some church leaders 'why aren't you doing more about AIDS?' they have said to me 'well, I don't know if we're doing enough about homelessness, or I don't know if we're doing enough about violence or drugs in the community.' But that's no excuse. Just because there are a lot of problems out there is no excuse to deal with none of those problems. And that's essentially what they're saying.

Can you imagine Martin Luther King saying there are too many problems out there for us to deal with any of them? If he knew that today Black church leaders were turning their backs on African American gays and lesbians, he'd turn over in his grave.

SBC: Do you think that part of the problem may be that African American gays and lesbians are turning their back on the Black community?

KB: I think that happens sometimes. I think that often happens as a reaction to the community turning it's backs on us.

SBC: Which came first, the chicken or the egg?

KB: It's sort of a 'chicken and egg' question. But to me I can see very clearly what came first. If you look at the Million Man March, for an example. Many African American gay men chose not to participate in the march because they felt that they would not be welcomed. What they're saying is not that they're turning their backs on the Black community, but some of the Black community's leadership has already turned their backs on them, and until there is some sort of affirmative effort to embrace or welcome them, then they are obviously not going to feel at home. Would you feel at home in the company of a man who says that you are a being that has no right to exist, or that we need to eliminate the factors that cause you to exist?

SBC: But are we to walk away from that, as we tend to do, sometimes giving the perception that our retreat from the Black community makes our Black gay and lesbian leadership vulnerable puppets of the white gay community? And that is the perception of, not only many community-based African American homosexuals, but also of the African American community itself. As we look at so many of our high-profile black homosexual leaders, we can only go back to the Black community and say 'well, what can we say? You're not so wrong'.

KB: In terms of puppetry, the 'so-called' leaders in our Black community who espoused homophobia and hatred of lesbians, homosexual men, bisexuals and transgender people are the real puppets. They're puppets of the white, Eurocentric culture. These are people who don't understand that homosexuality has existed in all cultures, including the African culture, because they are puppets of the white community.

SBC: So how do we get rid of the puppets on both sides? How do we get rid of the puppets in the homophobic Black community and how do we get rid of the puppets that have been deemed as the so-called 'leaders' of the Black gay movement.

KB: Well, I'm not sure what you mean by 'get rid of', but I don't think that it's my job or this organization's role to get rid of anyone. I think it's our role to educate people so that we can see who we should be working with and who we should not. I think that part of what we need to do is to recognize the leadership in all of us. That means we have to empower ourselves, we have to take on the challenge, to take on the people who are puppets in our community. We have to empower ourselves enough to be proud of who we are and to say who we are in our communities.

SBC: So what are some of the **empowering tactics that will be used by the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum?**

KB: Visibility is an extremely important empowering tool for gay and lesbian people. For African American gays and lesbians it's even more important because the larger white gay and lesbian community often tends to ignore us or to ostracize us.

Our presence at the Million Man March, for example, was one effort to be visible and to educate our [Black] community and to empower those people that were there. We walked through the sea of brothers there and it parted. They were so impressed, or intimidated, or whatever, by us that there was no overt homophobia directed at us. That was a strong message of empowerment for all of us who participated in that contingent.

And we will continue to do this because the lesson of that experience, and other experiences, is that when we have the courage to be honest about who we are, and to say who we are in our communities, the Black community not only accepts us, but respects us more.

So we, as an organization, will be doing that at other events. We'll be at the NAACP Convention, the SCLC Convention, The Black Family Reunions, The Black Expos, whenever there is a gathering of African American people, you will know that there are African American lesbians and gay men, bisexuals and transgenders as part of that gathering. We will no longer be ignored or excluded.

SBC: Are there any militant factions of BGLLF?

KB: What do you mean by militant?

SBC: Achievement by any means necessary.

KB: That's a phrase that's often bandied about with no clarity and there's a huge amount of ambiguity.

SBC: Whatever it takes to get it done. If it means kicking some ass. If certain things fail, such as meeting with people and trying to make them understand things in a Martin Luther King way, thus leading to the tactics of, say, the Black Panthers and the earlier Malcolm; will these sort of situations play a part in the leadership and direction of the BGLLF?

KB: Well, let me tell you a little bit about my personal experiences. I've been an activist for many years in many different capacities. I worked in the divestment movement in college, I worked on the diversity issue in law school. I was one of 11 students at Harvard who sued the University for discriminating against people of color and women and gays and lesbians in hiring. I led protest in school and shut down the administration building.

People often ask me with relation to what I'm doing now, do I believe in militancy? Am I a militant homosexual? And I proudly claim that title. I am a militant homosexual, if that what it means. When AIDS is the leading cause of death for African American men between the ages of 25 and 44 you're damn right I'm a militant homosexual. When gay teenagers are 3 times more likely to commit suicide than non-gay teenagers, of course I'm a militant homosexual. When the simplest expression of affection toward one another is demonized as somehow flaunting our sexuality, of course I'm a militant homosexual.

If that means that we have to aggressively go out and challenge people in a non-'King'-ean way, then I am a militant homosexual. Malcolm X is one of my heroes. Not just because of his views on 'by any means necessary', but because of his understanding of his own power, his evolution as a leader, as a thinker. Malcolm X of 1965 was nothing like Malcolm X of 1960.

SBC: Do you see a time in the near future when we can walk openly in our own community hand in hand as lovers, as companions, as family units?

KB: There is a notion in philosophy called transfigurative politics. That essentially means if you want something to be, you make it so. You transform the society by being it, by doing it, and it becomes so. We have to do that in our community.

Of course I perceive that time when we'll be able to walk down the street without trouble, but to make that happen we have to do it. We have to push ourselves, we have to challenge ourselves. We have to decide that we want this society more than we are afraid of this society. That's what makes change occur.

People say that courage has something to do with acting without concern or fear. I don't think that

makes any sense. What real courage is is knowing the concern and knowing the fear and acting in spite of it. We have to be involved in that sort of revolutionary thinking and revolutionary activity.

I don't think that it's easy. I don't think that it's going to happen overnight, but we have to have the vision to see that it can only happen if we start to make it happen, and that it will never happen if we sit around and debate it and intellectualize it so much. We just have to do it.

When you're walking down the street and you want to hold your lover's hand, then hold your lover's hand. See what happens. If you want to kiss your partner, kiss your partner. See what happens. If you want to just answer the question honestly when someone asks who you are, what your sexual orientation is, answer it honestly. See what happens, but the more we fear discussing these things and fear opening up the dialogue, the longer we perpetuate the conspiracy of silence.

SBC: Aside from the other philosophical chains that have been put upon us by 'the church', an incredible amount of homophobia has come forth and brazenly manifested itself there. In your opinion, how do we deal with this challenge?

KB: Sojourner Truth, in her 'I, Woman' speech says, and I quote: 'You say woman can't have as much rights as man because Christ weren't a woman. Where did your Christ come from? From God and a woman. Man had nothing to do with it.'

She was making the point that God created Christ and Mary, a woman, gave birth to Christ. There's no man involved in that. And yet, people use religion to lower the status of women. The Catholic Church said [recently] that women cannot be priest, and that is the infallible doctrine of God.

We have to understand that the message of spirituality does not mean that we ignore our minds. We have to think for ourselves. We cannot invite anybody else, or any organization or any book to teach us how to think.

I consider myself a Christian, not because I agree with everything that some Christian fundamentalist minister says. I have my own relationship with God, my own relationship with spirituality. I don't need anyone else to divine that for me. We all have to reach that ourselves. We don't need a church necessarily to make a connection with God or that Higher Power. We can do that by looking inside ourselves. Many of us are not at that point.

When the Pharisees asked Jesus what was the most important commandment, Jesus smiled and said 'you should love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and all thy soul and all thy mind.'

'Mind' is a part of what Jesus is telling them. And the second commandment is that 'you should love thy neighbor as thyself.' And he said 'on these two commandments you should hang all the laws and the prophets.'

So when a prophet comes to you in any costume as a minister or a religious leader and tells you not to think, and to demonize other people, or to hate other people, you should think back to what Jesus said in those first two great commandments. We have to start questioning what people have told us over the course of the years and to think for ourselves and to open up our hearts and to open up our minds and open up our eyes, see what's out there, look next to you in the pews and the churches and ask yourself if these are the people, these gay men and lesbians who populate many of our Black churches, if these are the people being demonized by the minister who is preaching nonsense from the pulpit.

When you look at statistics that show that HIV infection is actually declining in some cities, for example in Washington D.C. where I live, by something like 14%, 13%, and yet, it's increasing by 83% among Black gay men, that speaks volumes regarding the differences in our attitudes and our responses to this disease, and part of the reason, but not the only reason, that we're not responding is because we listen to ministers [who are] homophobic, often homosexuals themselves, homophobic homosexuals, who teach us we are less worthy than others of the forgiveness of God, of the love of God, of the compassion of God. And we start hating ourselves. We start engaging in risky behavior. We don't think that we're worthy of having our lives saved, or we believe that our lives aren't going to be saved anyway.

There is a whole complex, structural, philosophic dynamic in play which is largely, but not exclusively, perpetrated by some, but not all, Black churches.

We also have a fear in our Black gay and lesbian community of discussing these issues openly and honestly. We don't often enough, I think, talk about the need to discourage certain unsafe behavior, we don't talk enough about AIDS. We'll talk about condoms generally, we'll talk about the need to prevent the spread of the virus, we'll talk about the need for greater funding, but how many of us, and how often do we talk to our friends and our lovers and ask them about their sexual practices, asking if they are engaging in unsafe sex, explaining what that means and talk to them about how to use a condom and when you should use a condom, anal penetration, and letting them know that a condom is not fool-proof, and discussing the values and advantages and disadvantages of certain types of sex. We don't really get into these discussions often enough, I think.

This is not meant to take indictment of everybody in our community because there are many people out there who are doing just this. But we have a great deal of sexphobia and eroticphobia in the Black gay and lesbian community, much of which is internalized in the larger communities that we're a part of, that prevents us from even engaging in the basic level discussions that need to go on to stop the spread of this disease.

SBC: With the Leadership Forum's 9th annual conference which will be held this year in Dallas what will be the statement you'll be making? What kind of dialoging will be going on?

KB: The key word is 'dialogue', because I don't think that it's the job of this organization to preach to everyone in the sense of telling them that this is the only option, this is the only way.

In Dallas I expect discussion on many different ideas and options from people from across the country. Some people who are more conservative, some people who are more progressive, some who believe in a nationalist agenda, separating ourselves from other communities, and some who believe in an integrationist agenda. We'll find some who will endorse what I call militant tactics, and other who'll support more traditional civil rights tactics. There's a wide variety of perspectives that will come there.

There is some debate that will go on there. Very healthy debate. We should not fear it. We'll see that there will be debate about the focus of our movement and the focus of the organizations that represent the movement. Should we be a movement that embraces bisexuals and transgender people? This is a debate that, I think, has just started in our community and needs to be engaged in by all of us honestly and openly.

How can we make our communities and organizations more supportive of one another and less divisive, stop all the cat-fighting and the back-stabbing and all the pettiness that goes on, the organizations competing against the other organizations, committed to eliminating their competition? We have to be respectful of the diversity out there.

When I speak of the Forum, people have recently asked me what would I think if other organizations were created to serve the national Black gay and lesbian community, and my answer was 'Fine'.

I don't think this organization is the only answer. I'm very proud of what this organization is doing and what I want this organization to continue to do, but I think that we have to have an enlightening, educating, adult perspective so that we know that no one organization can serve everyone. We'll try to do whatever we can to serve as many people as we can.

If people want to push us in certain directions, they should try to push us in certain directions, if people have problems with some of the things that we've done in the past, they should bring those issues to the table, if they have suggestions on things we should be doing in the future, they should bring those issues to the table, because, ultimately, this organization belongs to all of us who choose to participate in it.

So what I'm asking is that we start to be very constructive in our dialogue, start to envision positive changes to make all of our organizations better, including this one.

SBC: I understand what you're saying that there's room for many organizations in our community, and that we should not be competitive, but cooperative, and I absolutely agree with that, however, certain organizations fit certain tastes and needs and agendas. For example, I go back to the point of what kind of organization would you call The National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum? Is it a nationalist organization or an integrationist organization?

KB: We haven't defined ourself as being a nationalist organization or an integrationist organization. I think there are elements of both philosophies that are important to us. We don't want to become so separatist that we have no connection with the Black community or the [larger] gay and lesbian community because, quite frankly, we are a part of those communities. It's different when you're talking about Black people vs. white people because you're Black, you're not white, unless you're multi-racial.

Usually separatism is easier to define, nationalism is easier to define. In our case we are talking about people who are a part of many different communities and who identify with many different communities, so to say that we are only going to be Black gay and lesbian people and we won't have anything to do with Black [straight] people and we won't have anything to do with [white] gay people, I think, is a mistake.

On the other hand, to say that we have to be beholden to the [larger] gay and lesbian community or the Black community at large, I think, is also a mistake. We have to have our own agenda, we have to be about raising our issues in all of our different communities.

SBC: There are Black gays and lesbians and there are white gays and lesbians just like there are Black Americans and white Americans. There is a very big difference. There are separate agendas.

KB: When we met with the members of The Congressional Black Caucus in September, we told them that we have an agenda. Our agenda will sometimes overlap with the larger gay and lesbian agenda. Sometimes it will not. You want to know what Black gay and lesbian people think, you can't talk to white gay and lesbian organizations.

As I said before, it's a mistake to be so identified with the larger gay and lesbian community that we don't recognize our differences. It's also a mistake to be so removed from the gay and lesbian community that we don't recognize our similarities.

SBC: How is the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum directed?

KB: By a national board of 25. Structurally, The Forum is a representative organization in the sense that all of us [on the board] are charged with the responsibility of leading the organization, but ideas from anyone are accepted very democratically.

Procedurally, if someone wants to join the organization, simply write to us and tell us you want to be a member. The membership fee is $35 but we have not in the past excluded individuals from membership based on an inability to pay, and we will not be excluding those individuals in the future.

We have to be open to everyone, to anyone without being so consumed by process.

The Forum will hold it's 9th Annual Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference February 15-19 in Dallas, Texas. For details regarding conference seminars, workshops, guest speakers, banquet, hotel and travel reservations, contact The Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum/ 1219 South La Brea Avenue/ Los Angeles, California 90019/ 213.964.7820.

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Incognito: VIBES ACROSS THE WATER

by Gregory Victorianne, New England Correspondent

"I realized I don't have to be doing fusion music. Fuck that, there's other things, man. When you wanna write a song, write it direct, get away from solos. I don't want no vehicle for musicians to be masturbating over...this album [100 and Rising] isn't about that," proudly states Brit's fuzakologist [fusion + muzik] Sir Jean Paul Maunick aka Bluey of INCOGNITO. "I want personality on my record, leave space for the singer, make sure the rhythm is kickin' where it needs to be and just guide everybody and have a fucking great time doing it!"

A friendly transatlantic call from Trident Studios in West London where Bluey & Co. is wrapping up productions on George Benson's comeback album Nomad and adding his touches to the cocktail mixes of Good Love, a guaranteed dance floor filler. Bluey doesn't deliver theological or trendy conversation about personal experiences or how phat INCOGNITO music is. Dialogue with Bluey over the past couple of years has left this writer with inspiration and a better awareness of the fuzak [fusion + muzak] guru mission of life. Where sooo many of today's five & dime musicians bark cesspool and sameness sliced with no originality or influences of their craft, Bluey has a long term plan. And it's about INCOGNITO.

When Inside Life dropped in '92, a platter fronted by dance vixen Jocelyn Brown wailing on Ronnie Laws/Side Effect's eternal classic Always There, which now serves as INCOGNITO'S theme song on tour, the smokey vocals of Linda Muriel on Metropolis and Can You Feel Me, sliced with the lush instrumentals Journey Into Sunlight and Gypsy, it created a buzz that was becoming contagious. Sophomore Tribes, Scribes & Vibes, a platter of Gypsy Soul and Afro-Cuban, features a voice from heaven, Maysa Leak, who once niced up Stevie Wonder as a Wonderlove backin' vocalist.

The funky workout Change, along with Don't You Worry 'Bout A Thing, with the man himself on harmonica, later slapped an injunction on the song after Maysa sung it with conviction. There were jazz friendly instrumentals [Magnetic Ocean, Colibri] and the inspirational L'Arc En Ciel De Miles became radio friendly rotation that created a demand for the first U.S. tour.

They jaywalked 8 shows in 10 nites, includin' a 3 nite stint in Detroit where they upstaged headliners The Yellowjackets and later at D.C.'s Blue's Alley where SBC's Chocolate City correspondent Mark F. Johnson was caught tapping his foot to some stone to the bone jazzy grooves with soulful melodies.

"The tour was brutal, but nothing unusual for INCOGNITO. It was of major importance that we were accepted in America. We believed we had something happenin' with a Brit angle and we took American music back to America and have been honest about it," stated Bluey.

Does Bluey actually believe that the American lack of a definitive image has proven a refreshing change for the nieces & nephews on our shores when INCOGNITO drops their disc or live shows? And has gained INCOGNITO greater acceptance than most American acts on the global tip?

"What the Americans have forgotten in the land that gave you Curtis Mayfield, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder; in the land that gave you Miles Davis and Gil Evans, is that the core is musicality which shines through. And our music will always shine. We're takin' American muzik back to America and have been really honesty about it."

Positively was released with greater magnitude and was more vocal oriented. The back ll back hits Deep Waters and Still A Friend Of Mine are still demonstrating greater endurance than the pink bunny with the drum. Jazz instrumentals became permanent radio fixtures and landed this masterpiece on top of the Contemporary Jazz Charts where it stayed for many weeks. Then came another worldwide tour including stops on the US downlow, Far East, The Continent, South America and down under where INCOGNITO is on the brink of commercial success.

"We were together for 18 months and the band, at that moment, lived for playing live. That's INCOGNITO in our moments of glory. We sold records and it allowed us to play more. We never set out to be commercially successful. But shit happens..."

Yes Bluey, shit does happen, and it stinks when success came your way. Rumors circulated that Maysa was unhappy while the band called it quits. It was called mutiny and, all of a sudden, another story of a British band had done history. Granted, the country delivered the Average White Band, Hot Chocolate and Heatwave during the 70's. Loose Ends, Imagination, Central Line graced the airwaves in the 80's. The 90's gave muzik connoisseurs Galliano, BNH and Soul ll Soul, who has kept on movin', but INCOGNITO was the talk of the universe. What waz up wit' dat?

To end the tabletop chatterin', the publicity guru of their label Verve/Mercury in the Big Apple returned all calls and quieted the misinformed reporters and supports. Maysa was not unhappy. She always had a desire to do solo projects and this was the opportunity. As a matter of fact, her debut on the GRP label features the man himself pluckin' on guitar and other sidekicks of the band. Secondly, the musicians of INCOGNITO were not signed to the label. Only Bluey. And it is only Bluey who is INCOGNITO.

The players were lured away for a global tour and fatter cheques by Basia, who wanted to improved her lifeless elevator sound with a bit of that free spirit over a groove vibe. Missy committed grand theft with the almighty US Dead President instead of the UK battered Queen Lizzie pound sterling.

"Man, it was awful. All of a sudden I was without a band, so I had to shift gears and take the next set to another level."

100 degrees and Rising has the enthusiasm of Earth, Wind & Fire and Herbie Hancock sliced with the strings of 80's Chic and the funkiness of Rufus.

The sharp string section and pungent funky guitar riffs, shimmering keyboards and churchy vocals make for a well balanced collection of songs that have become dance floor fillers—Everyday, I Hear Your Name and the cocktail friendly Good Love. Soul/R&B radio stations have embraced the simmering Spellbound & Speechless and Where Did We Go Wrong while jazz purist praised the vampish Millennium, the rhythm roundelay Jacob's Latter and the samba tinged Barumba, in tribute to Brazilian composer Luis Eca.

"We did go somewhere else with this record. I wanted this album to have an orchestral feel, but also to be the funkiest album we've done for awhile. I cut down on the bass, brought in a lot of strings. With the vocalist, I was looking for more 'in yer face' singers, somewhere near what Jocelyn Brown gave us on Always There.

"After auditioning many singers, I selected Joy Malcolm and Pamela Anderson. Two very strong voices who can also kill a ballad as well. Both Joy and Pamela are incredibly talented. They hear what I have to say, catch the vibe and then add their own thing. They are simply brilliant!"

One point of reference: Pamela is the voice behind D-Note's funky Babel long player and is part of the Anderson clan who brought us soul sirens Carleen Anderson via Virgin and Jhelisa Anderson on Moonshine. Joy is a seasoned session singer who will drop a solo set of her own right in the new year.

Does INCOGNITO exist beyond Bluey? Will there be a permanent line-up with some stable side kicks, while others nice up the mix and contribute their thoughts and ideas and move on to the next level?

"INCOGNITO is never going to be a band. It's always going to be me. That way, we stay focused."

TO JOURNEY WITHIN
Settling The Score

by Marta V. Butler

I remember as a child growing up that I was involved in several physical confrontations. Perhaps you were also. If the crowd around you deemed you the winner, all was well. You felt good about yourself, your ego was soaring at an altitude not even a plane would dare to go. If the crowd deemed you the loser, this would result in an ego blow out. Anger would grip you and you were determined to settle the score.

As we all grew and made the transition into young adulthood we were taught that when we were a child, we spoke as a child and we behaved as a child. Now as an adult we must behave accordingly. As adults, many of us have become oblivious to those intangibles instilled in us as children. They have found there place in our being and have remained there. Many of us have become complacent to the things that cause us fear, that cause us to doubt ourselves, to lack confidence in ourselves, to mistrust and oftentimes even dislike ourselves.

The time has arrived for us to travel to a place where no one else is capable of going. We must venture to that place called inner self. We must take the time to settle the score.

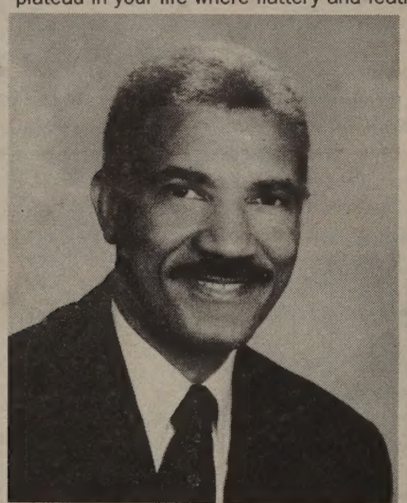
Oftentimes, constant validation by others seems to be the driving force that prevents us from settling the score. If you have reached a plateau in your life where flattery and feathering your cap no longer contains the substance it once did, know that the power of the Spirit is working in your life. You are being admonished to examine all of the intangibles regardless of how long or short their existence. Take the time to settle the score.

Through the years many of us were told we aren't smart enough, our hips are too wide, our hair is too short, our feet are too big. All of these and the like have caused many wonderful human beings to fall short of being the best. Understand, the challenge won't be easy, but it is within us to rise to the occasion. Move forward. Settle the score.

Realize that settling the score requires you to step into the arena of self acceptance. Know that the battle is with you and you alone. Acknowledge the fact that you have the power of the Divine as your ally. Believe all that is put forth and you will then emerge the VICTOR.

If we never take the time to settle the score, the element of defeat (which, by the way, is a negative energy) will forever be prevalent in our lives. Why remain the conquered when it is within our power to become the conqueror?

Settling the score is having the ability to look down at those big feet and love them, while shaking those wide hips as we look in the mirror and smile, while admiring our short hair because we're smart enough to know that that is where we place our crown.



MONOGAMY:
To Be Or Not To Be?

by Paul M. Smith, LICSW

Few issues in relationships tend to spark as much controversy as the one that deals with monogamy versus non-monogamy. As a community, we have struggled with this dilemma only to find that there are no easy answers and that monogamy often seems too difficult to achieve and sustain over the long haul with most couples. We come to this dilemma from a long history that is deeply rooted in the Judeo/Christian ethic that frames the heterosexual marriage in our culture. Most of us have grown up in these marriages (or relationships) and have deeply-held values relative to how we set boundaries around the sexual component of our relationships.

The model that we know best is that of monogamy. When it is mutually shared by the couple, it can work well from start to finish with both parties finding sustained mutual sexual and emotional compatibility together. However, when the commitment to monogamy breaks down, one or both is left feeling frustrated and out of sync with that template in their heads that says monogamy is the only right way to go.

If the couple wants to work toward restoring the commitment to monogamy, it may be necessary to seek counseling in order to look at what happened in the couple's sexual transaction that may have created the breakdown. Hopefully this process could help to find ways to reinitiate that spark that was once there and restore the couple to satisfying relations with each other. Sexual dynamics in a relationship are usually highly complex and when they break down, they are not easily ameliorated without some professional intervention involving both members of the couple.

However, when monogamy seems doomed, does this mean that the relationship has to end? No, not necessarily - especially if the two love each other and share a strong partnership in other ways. I believe that if there is a strong enough foundation in the relationship, the sexual contract may be renegotiated allowing for a shift from the 'old marriage' to a modified position in the relationship that can support opening up of the sexual component. This is by no means a simple or monolithic process. It goes to the very core of one's conceptual framework of what a committed relationship means. It struggles with one's beliefs, one's sense of security, one's fears of rejection and abandonment; feelings of anger and jealousy and the reevaluation of how one's intimacy and emotional needs are to be met in the relationship. This means that a lot of honest feelings, beliefs and attitudes must be put on the table by both parties so that what ever emerges comes from a place of honesty, mutual agreement and a respect for the integrity of the primary relationship.

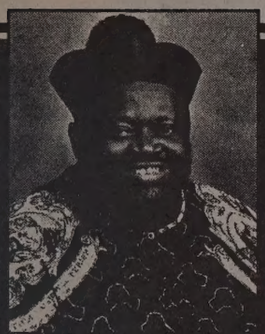
There are significant risks to opening up the relationship that are over and above the obvious. Driggs and Finn, in the manual on 'How to Find and Keep Gay Relationships: Intimacy Between Men', suggest that sexuality and intimacy are like two rivers converging into a single river bed, sharing common boundaries on both sides. As they flow together, over time the river bed widens and deepens. If they diverge and flow separately, the channels will also separate and deepen independently making it difficult to reconnect or realign themselves further down stream. This metaphor, although simplistic, helps to explain why many relationships which become sexually open face the risk of loosing the convergence between sexuality and intimacy.

Another concern is that, as sexuality and intimacy diverge, the time and energy that would ordinarily be concentrated in the relationship becomes diluted and dissipated outside. It takes a lot of time and energy to seek outside sexual fulfillment and when these resources are going out rather than staying in, it diminishes the workpower available to maintain and grow a strong and healthy primary relationship.

And lastly, sexual openness needs to happen without secrecy and deception. Some couples need a variation of the don't ask, don't tell policy in order to handle non-monogamy. However, secrecy and deception only breed guilt and shame, two of the most toxic threats to intimacy and trust between two people.

So, can a couple successfully shift from monogamy to sexual openness in their relationship? It can happen only if there is a secure enough foundation inlaid with trust, honesty, mutual agreement and respect.

Such a foundation is only the beginning, however. Stepping out of monogamy into the uncertain terrain of sexual openness is like stepping out into a mine field. The risks are high and missteps costly. It will require a tremendous amount of thoughtful caring, consideration and planning with each step of the way to avoid the pitfalls and to protect the integrity of the primary relationship.



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BELIEVING IN THE AFRICAN PROVERB: "BEFORE HEALING OTHERS, HEAL THY SELF"

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D.C. DOIN's

by Mark F. Johnson, WASHINGTON D.C. CORRESPONDENT

While the rest of Washington can blame the foot long icicles on the latest arctic air mass, that excuse won't hold water at the Capitol. The place has been frigid cold since the Republicans took over last year. And right now, unfortunately, there is no relief in sight. Democratic members of Congress seem to be bailing out on an almost daily basis lately and I wonder if they will ever be the majority party again anytime soon.

However, there is a ray of hope in the recent announcement of one Democratic member who has decided to leave the House of Representatives. REP. KWESI MFUME of Maryland has recently announced that he will give up his (very safe Democratic) seat next February to become the new Executive Director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the nation's oldest civil rights group. What a stroke of genius!

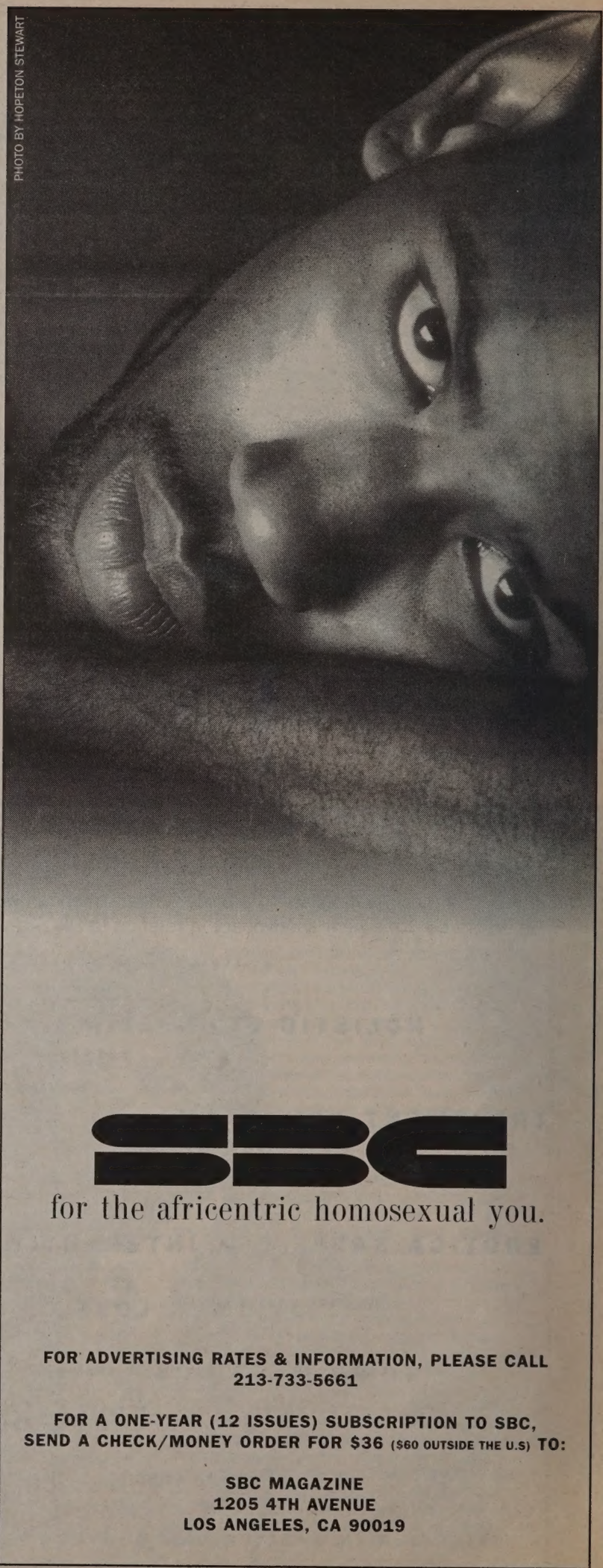
Mfume, the former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus is certainly one of a short list of people who could probably bring respect back to that organization and raise it to the level that it should be as we enter the 21st century. He is a savvy, intelligent and articulate politician who has learned a lot about the power game during his eight years in Congress. He can bring a great deal to the NAACP and by extension to the African American community.

We in the Black gay community should welcome his appointment, especially because, in the past, he and the other members of the Congressional Black Caucus have demonstrated a fine understanding and commitment to our appeals for a place at the Black family table. So far I see this appointment as a win-win situation all around. I wish him much success when he takes over the reins of the beleaguered group next year.

And Speaking of next year, Nineteen ninety-six promises to be an interesting one. We first have the election to look forward to—both presidential and congressional. But, on the literary tip, we
must get ready for the release

E. LYNN HARRIS' third novel "And This Too Shall Pass," due to be published by Doubleday sometime next spring. Not to be outdone, "B-Boy Blues" author

JAMES EARL HARDY says he's about to take his latest sizzler off the stove. It will be a sequel to "B-Boy...", one of this year's hottest selling novels. And a serious look at what it means to be black and gay in America will be offered by Keith Boykin, Executive Director of the National Black Lesbian & Gay Leadership Forum. Keith has interviewed many, many people that you may know or have heard of for his work. On the gone, but certainly not forgotten author's list is D.C.'s own ESSEX HEMPHILL. The prolific trailblazer among Black gay writers left us this past fall but his memory lives on and on and on. Plans for a Hemphill memorial service are being hatched by friends in Washington who want to see a day of expressions and celebrations in his honor on his next birthday, April 16th. They are calling upon organizers in all major cities to plan tomemorialize him on the day that he would have turned 39. Peace and joy unto you. May 1996 bring all the big, good and healthy things you wish for yourself. For me, that would be a new boyfriend!



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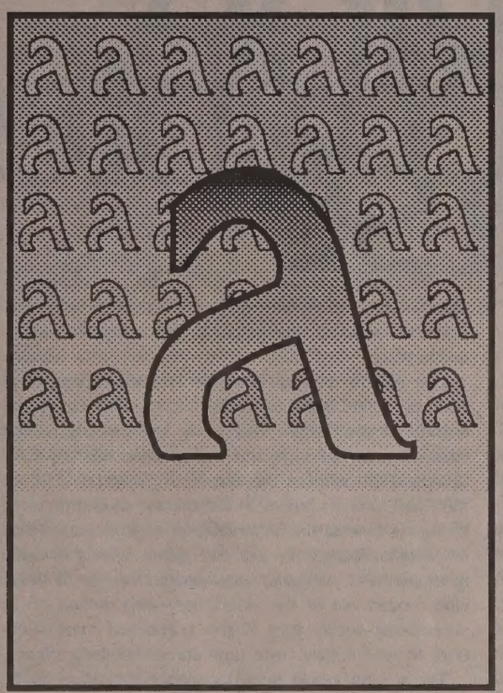

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PARTY

Weenie to the left of me. Weenie to the right of me. Piles and piles of cakes. Clever banter and bright, pretty faces... This is not, of course, a complaint. It is, instead, the way to do an entertaining evening of theeAYtuh.

PARTY is a confectioner's delight about seven friends who get together for their monthlyish evening of dish, froch and frolic. On this particular evening, the fellas introduce a new member to the fun and (appallingly) nonsexual games. While its unfortunate that the newbie, Andy (Ray Bahart), is no Eve Harrington, his innocence in the midst of a gaggle of varyingly jaded homosexuals provides humorous counterpoint and balance to the archly hilarious Ray (a scenestealing Ted Bales), an acerbic, ofttimes acidtongued young priest/old queen. Their differences also establish early on the homosexual generation gap.

The fun begins when they engage in a truthordare type game which will inevitably lead to everybody stripped buck naked both physically and psychologically... albeit painlessly. Each character supplies some revealing and embarrassing factoid from his life before disrobing to the audience's delight.

Yes, there is a Brothuh in this predominantly Anglo production—William Wesley, portraying the leather queen whose accepted "dare" to do twenty jumping jacks in the buff had a dozen necks or so craning late in the show. Whiplash anonymous anyone?

Now, before you paint your nails jungle red and go CAT WOMAN on us, you should know that William's role is not written for an African American. In fact, there is not even the vaguest mention of ethnicity in the play at all. On the flip, while his character is underwritten, at least Willyumyum has the bestest ...er, "participles" adangling in PARTY and one truly tastylooking hind end tucked in a terry cloth robe.

Rumor has it that while author, DAVID DILLON, looks forward to a long run here in sunny LA, he's also hoping to bring his PARTY to a city near you and bare all soon.

East coast legit to the west...

ETERNAL E

EASYE's incredibly rapid rise from street tough to Rap icon and visionary entrepreneur before being felled by AIDS at the relatively tender age of 31 plays, in retrospect, like HORATIO ALGER cum CITIZEN KANE, remarkably "allAmerican." The irony and seeming contradictions loom too large and cast a shadow far too long to be missed.

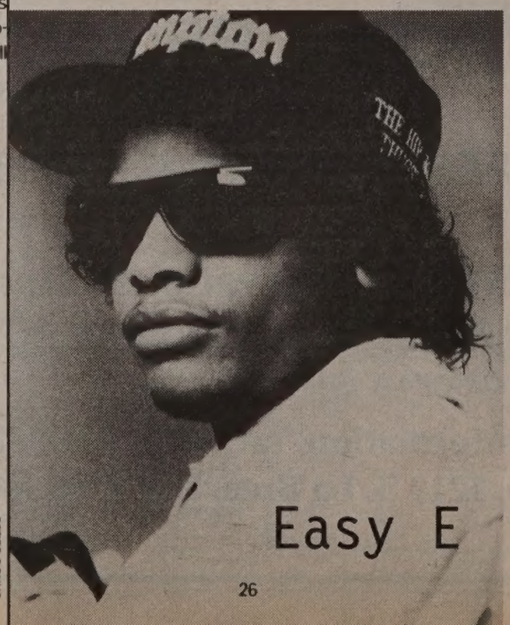
As one of the founding members of NWA (Niggas With Attitude) he helped push Rap to the forefront of pop music and that old fantasy called "mainstream" culture without compromising the message, telling it just as it was on the streets of his native Compton while simultaneously putting West Coast Rap on the map.

One has to wonder what the response might have been to the RODNEY KING beating, the civil unrest that ensued or even such presumably less directly related events as the OJ saga and the socalled REPUBLICAN REVOLUTION without the voices of Easy, DR. DRE or ICE CUBE among others. In the context of giving sound to the voiceless, the violence and misogyny depicted in gangsta Rap is no less repugnant than the willful ignorance and arrogantly assumed superiority of those who moved out of the 'hood, they who moved on to supposedly secure jobs in the 'burbs and their neighbors to whom they were now somewhat less inferior.

Those who would seek to silence gangsta Rap by denigrating Eazy E, et al, for so stunningly and successfully marketing gangsta Rap might do well to reexamine their own parts in helping to create the climate and environment producing young people who identify with the gansta message.

They ought to try and look beyond the man's image, too, and applaud his entrepreneurial success as evidenced by his work with artists such as MICHEL'LE, JJ FADD, ABOVE THE LAW, and BONE THUGS 'N' HARMONY. Similarly, I'm sure they would also praise his charitable contributions to ATHLETES AND ENTERTAINERS FOR KIDS, CITY OF HOPE, UNITED COLORS and the MAKE A WISH FOUNDATION. A portion of the proceeds from this CD will be donated to pediatric AIDS.

ETERNAL E may actually be one of the first snapshots of Rap's golden age, Rap having since seeped into just about every form of contemporary music. It offers EazyE at his best, in a minimalist setting with just his voice, a microphone, a groove and whatever is on the Brother's mind. While his legacy will inevitably be judged by his music's endurance, and ten years ain't all that much time, this boy from the 'hood still sounds fresh as evuh.



PETER DOKUS

JAMES MINCHIN

VERONICA

I must admit that try as I might to resist, Puerto Rican hip hop/R&B newcomer, VERONICA's CD "V.. Is For Veronica." (Mercury) Allegedly, her record label intends to play down the siren's ethnicity and play up her vocal skills in order to avoid comparisons with other Latino vocal femme fatale vocalists like LISA LISA and LISETTE MELENDEZ. Unhuh. Did I mention that she has blue eyes? Anyway, with noble assist from the likes of DALLAS AUSTIN, DUI and FULL FORCE, girlfriend's got flavatago. Every track is lean and real in a way that reminds me of MARY J.'s debut. Full and throaty singing without too much unnecessary hollering, smart grooves, good vibe. Well worth the time again and again.

FILMFILE

WHOOPI GOLDBERG will host this year's ACADEMY AWARDS again, with Q. JONES producing. She was the first AfAm and first fem to do it solo. They'd worked together on "THE COLOR PURPLE" in which she starred, he produced.

You can get the "considerably shorter" version of the NC17 rated MGM/UA release, "Showgirls," at a Blockbuster outlet near you. I haven't seen the original or the Blockbuster version where, reportedly, certain graphically violent scenes will be omitted.

Still, I plan to rent it just to see GLENN PLUMMER sweatin and dancin up a storm. Sex appeal aside (which, in his case would be quite a feat), the deep-

brownskinned brothuh was most gracious when we ran into each other at my favorite "South Hollywood" coffee haunt. I was flattered that he even remembered having seen me "around" as an actor. The truth is, I'd evaded his inquiries into where he knew me from because I hadn't worked in so long. It's a typical Hollywood actor/slash/this/that/ and the other story. But, I didn't want to bore a handsome man with the details of my little ole uneventful life.

Mr. Plummer never did mention any of his upcoming work, nor did he flirt with me. I chalked the former up to the humility which was abundant well before the film opened, and to the latter the fact that my homobarometer is one of the worst on the planet. Fact is, I couldn't hit a homosexual geyser with a divining rod. I do plan to rent that video, though, if only to watch Glen Plummer. Plummer. Great name, don't you thank?

Pistol packin Sisters of the world unite! You may soon have a leader if the rumors floating around are correct about a possible remake of the JOHN CASSAVETTES film, GLORIA, starring an African American in the title role. The original starred GENA ROWLANDS as a mobster's tough exgirlfriend suddenly caught up again in the underworld when she befriends a little boy who witnessed the assassination of his family. No names have been attached to the lead role yet, but I'm sure we'll know soon...

and then we can all exhale.

IMMATURE'S GROWING

Fourteen year old hip hop veterans, IMMATURE, return with their hookdrenched, hit-laden sophomore effort WE GOT IT that surpasses its certified gold precursor, PLAYTIME IS OVER. Anything but sophomoric, the fellas (under the careful and steady guidance of "founder/manager/producer," Chris Stokes) deliver solid and sometimes masterful RNB crooner performances over taut urban grooves. While not quite exhibiting the raw genius or all encompassing and selfcontained dexterity of the JACKSON 5 to whom they've been (but who hasn't?) compared, they appear to have the goods: the sort of musical gift that can transcend fickle audiences, mediocre material and (perhaps more importantly) that adolescent change of voice. Best cuts: The pop/urban WE GOT IT, LOVER'S GROOVE with its harder hiphop edge, PAGER's rather trite but pop accessible low riding groove, the "baby please take me back" ballad entitled I CAN'T STOP THE RAIN, and the smooth as hell BOY LIKE ME.

FEEL THE FUNK (from the soundtrack album of the film DANGEROUS MINDS) is also included, unfortunately. Its the only incongruity on the album. Despite the record's excellence, its like a snapshot of this Fab Three as toddlers. They've definitely moved on to the next level. No reminder needed.

TONY, GO BACK AND GET YOURSELF

Okayyyyy... While it may be a smart business move to emulate BABYFACE'S vocal affectations and his "my poor broken heart style" as a songwriter..... HOWEVUH, whenever this ploy is employed, it invariably moves the artist away from his own voice. TONY RICH will probably sell a few more records because of his intimate (musical) association with MR. KENNETH EDMONDS (aka Babyface), but he's still got to prove his own stylistic mettle before we give up the props.

When at his best, though, Rich mines the Babyface sound for the best in arrangement and producer's creative vision. Still that doesn't make the feathers as tasty as the chicken. But expect Tony Rich, called by some an acoustic R&B artist, to receive too much fucking attention over the next several months, due to the aforementioned affiliation. However, my guess is that Mr. Rich will be politely feted as the next phase in contemporary R&B and then quickly buried. Large and powerful conglomerates and the folks who live in their hallowed walls can make stars out of folks like Tony Rich or MARIAH CAREY or TONI BRAXTON and so many others while blissfully ignoring these folks real gifts, arguing that those qualities are only of marginal interest, delivering less economic buck for the bang, if you will. But reality eventually steps in and shit. 'K? Part of me hopes that the Tony Rich project "WORDS" fails miserably because I'd love to see this artist go back and regroup and say what's really on his mind. Another part of me wants the Brothuh to succeed. Yet another part of me rages that outside of PRINCE, STEVIE WONDER, TERENCE TRENT D'ARBY and incredibly few others, when it comes to R&B music, almost none of the fellas whose albums are getting produced are saying anything new or truly provocative. Unfortunately the same is true of THE TONY RICH PROJECT.

WILLIAM HAMES

vibe word chapter

MORE RAP ON RAP

SEN. BOB DOLE, author WILLIAM BENNETT and C. DELORES TUCKER (NATIONAL POLITICAL CONGRESS OF BLACK WOMEN) may be breathing fire right now with the overwhelming success of THA DOGG POUND'S gangsta rap debut, DOGG FOOD (Priority Records). Dole, Bennett and Tucker have long assailed the violence and misogyny in rap music, seemingly perplexed to its continued popularity, particularly among young people.

With all due respect to Dole, Bennett and Tucker's genuine concern for the plight of our youth (and the growing rate of violence among our young men), I can't help but wonder if its even remotely occurred to them that the language of the debate on values is completely and totally alien to many of these young people. And while I would personally prefer that there be more parental (as opposed to governmental) guidance in terms of helping select the music that young people bring into the house, we cannot ignore the level of denial in so many adults that they themselves gave up control a long time ago.

Many of the people crying foul over Rap cheered when that centuryold bastion of discipline and source of income called "the draft" was ended; they voted RONALD REAGAN into office and he promptly cut off the (youth oriented) TAP and CETA programs; they sat idly by as student loan and grant programs were systematically gutted. These young people saw their elders either shopping 'til they dropped or off pursuing material gain throughout the eighties, leaving SESAME STREET and NINTENDO to babysit the kids if they were affluent.

On the other side of the tracks, cash was choked off from the youth centers, business decided that the workers were mere chattel, not their brothers and sisters, therefore, the rules applying to being one's "brother's keeper" could be flouted; and they squeezed out the worker mule. Result: Black, brown skinned and lower middle classed workers all shamed out of their families because they couldn't provide for them.

The greater, expertly executed end: a society whose young men have been told, unequivocally, by their elders, "I got mine, you get yours. And make no mistake—we could care less about you, and we will do whatever to maintain this new society."

Along comes a gangsta rapper, flashing the gold chains, speaking our language, validating our (very much righteous) feelings of anger and abandonment, ultimately empowering us.

Everybody around us listens to tha gangstas. We are a mighty army. We are all young, therefore invincible and suddenly so very powerful. Why the fuck should we listen to a bunch of old people who listen to Frank Sinatra and Leontyne Price? What the fuck did Martin Luther King do for me? And they killed Malcolm X because he wanted to share the respect, didn't they? I say take what I want or need by any means possible because the thin line that separates me from you is as easy to erase as that which separates "yours" from "ours."

But, of course, the question "why?... why do you seem to hate us?" is as hard to ask/answer as it is to delete that one little letter, the letter "Y," which makes "yours" of "ours."

Granted, too may rappers have been hard on women, especially Black women. But is Rap music any more juvenile than rock and heavy metal have been for the last two decades? Or, reaching back even further, how about Nat King Cole's "Calypso Blues" in which a fine "Calypso woman" would "cook me shrimp and rice..." and that was the extent of his respect for a female; what she could do for him as a servant.

It just seems to me that everybody's attacking these young brothers who are clawing their way out of the barrel the very best way they know how (sans the guidance of their elders) and that while, yes, much of the violence we hear in their lyrics sounds extreme, the reality is that the outlook for young Black men (Million Man March notwithstanding) is bleak. The tendency to isolate gangsta rap as the cause of contemporary urban ills, thus making the silencing of their voices the "magic bullet", is equally reprehensible, sending the message further that this voice is not to be respected in open dialogue.

Most disturbing though, is the way that these selfproclaimed morality police refuse to look at the (mostly) youth generated violence in the larger context of violence as an oft used tool in shaping American history. In HBO's VIOLENCE: AN AMERICAN TRADITION the thread of violence is traced from the country's bloody beginnings from the Revolutionary War to today. Using graphic drawings, photographs and film footage, the Julian Bond narrated Home Box Office exclusive is a telling and scathing indictment of the "long tradition of mob violence and assassination." And, knowingly, as it reconstructs our savage past, its contemporary parallels never leave our periphery.

Early twentieth century mafia killings share a common lineage with today's random youth violence: in each case, the victims are typically seen as dispensable, (be it drunks in the age of prohibition or crackheads in the "three strikes" era) and were/are typically poor.

After watching the horrors visited on so many children, women and men of color, it seems almost respectable that young Black men, having learned what it takes to make it from their Anglo male precursors and role models, cling so closely to violence.

Julian Bond and HBO lay out this world of confusion without blinking an eye or pulling any punches. Its damned good and quite entertaining viewing. And even with all its goriness, still the responsible approach taken by the makers of VIOLENCE... makes the documentary's violence bearable, worth watching with your younger one.

THE BILLION DOLLAR QUEEN

OPRAH WINFREY is movin' on up. Seems the queen of chat with apoint is not only on the FORBES list as one of the wealthiest Americans but she's rumored to be on her way to becoming The First Black Billionaire. Actually, it couldn't happen to a nicer person. Several years back, just after her OSCAR nomination and just after I'd moved to LA, Ms. Winfrey graciously agreed to stop for a moment for a photograph with an insistent friend whom I'd accompanied to morning services as WARD AME CHURCH! Before you clock me for my act of random tastelessness, let this go on record as an official policy.

THE COLOR IS GREEN

AL GREEN, of course, has no need to apologize unless its for depriving us secular listeners of the quintessential soul voice of the seventies for over eighteen years! All's forgiven, Mr. Green, with YOUR HEART'S IN GOOD HANDS.

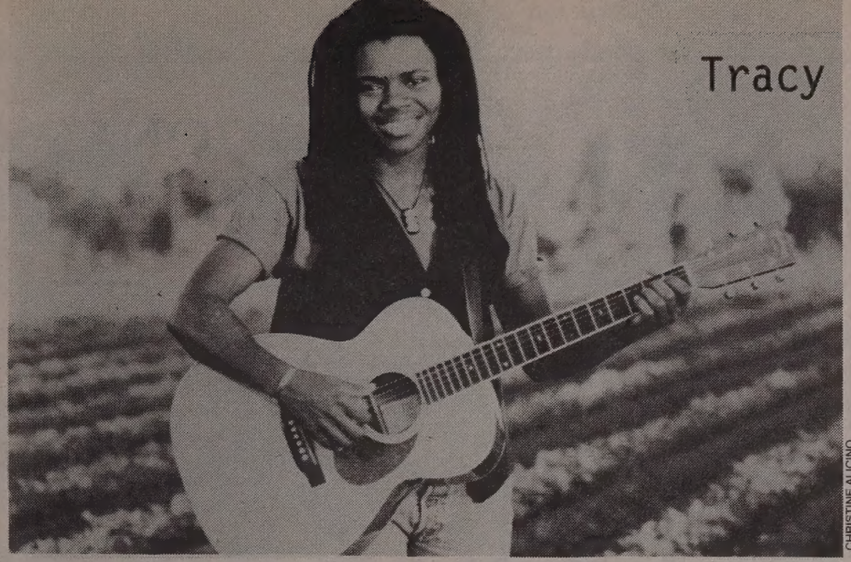
Thoroughly Al Green from start to finish, "Your Heart's..." reminds why the eighttime GRAMMY winner was once a contender for SAM COOKE's throne as pop/soul king along with more established contemporaries, MARVIN GAYE and STEVIE WONDER before his religious convictions took him down that other equally successful road to gospel music. His smoldering, underplayed tenor still leaps effortlessly into that crystal clear falsetto, yearning to get out of the frying pan, hissing/crackling/teasing like fatback slapped on a red hot frying pan. It's that feelgood lovin' promising to carry you forever like a full belly or real lovemaking at the beginning of the day. Keep ya head up for COULD THIS BE LOVE, written and produced by JODECI's DEVANTE, with the fellas adding a gritty background. Also check out old schoolcharmwithanewjackgrooved, LOVE IS A BEAUTIFUL THING and the truly intimate R&B ballad, YOUR LOVE and the uplifting, KEEP ON PUSHING with its soothing, sexy opening harkening back to the classic, LET'S STAY TOGETHER.

Yesssssss... the man's still got the magic. Listen for him in a club near you.

ANOTHER CUTE ADDITION TO THE BOYGROUP CLUB

'Course, if you need more than one good man, AFEWGOODMEN will likely hit the spot. This quartet is the latest offering from LAFACE Records and a seemingly direct and honorable addition to the ever expanding field of male vocal quartets. They have a polished roughness and roughishness in their gospelrooted vocals that constantly challenges JODECI, BOYZ II MEN, LEVERT and the rest of the pack while never even remotely approaching the likes of THE TEMPS, O'JAYS, THE SPINNERS, THE FOUR TOPS, THE CHILITES, etc.

Yes, they sound great. Yes they're all very attractive. Yes, they'll probably sell a lot of records. But are they special? Not especially. Can they service your needs when you need a soundtrack for you and the one you love.? Absolutely. And that ain't too damn bad. Of particular note is the standout track, WALK YOU THRU. You don't even need to add salt it's delish!



TRACEY TRACING OLD TRACKS

It's about hitting that stride, remaining true and current, remaining relevant, in the mix, worthwhile. On her third album NEW BEGINNING, Black girl with guitar, TRACEY CHAPMAN, returns to the themes of longing and desire and social commentary of her eponymously titled freshman offering.

With a voice ever more the happy if haunting and often chilling medium between JOAN ARMATRADING and NINA SIMONE, la belle Chapman's earnest pleas for both our spiritual and physical environments lack the bite, eloquence and irony of that first outing.

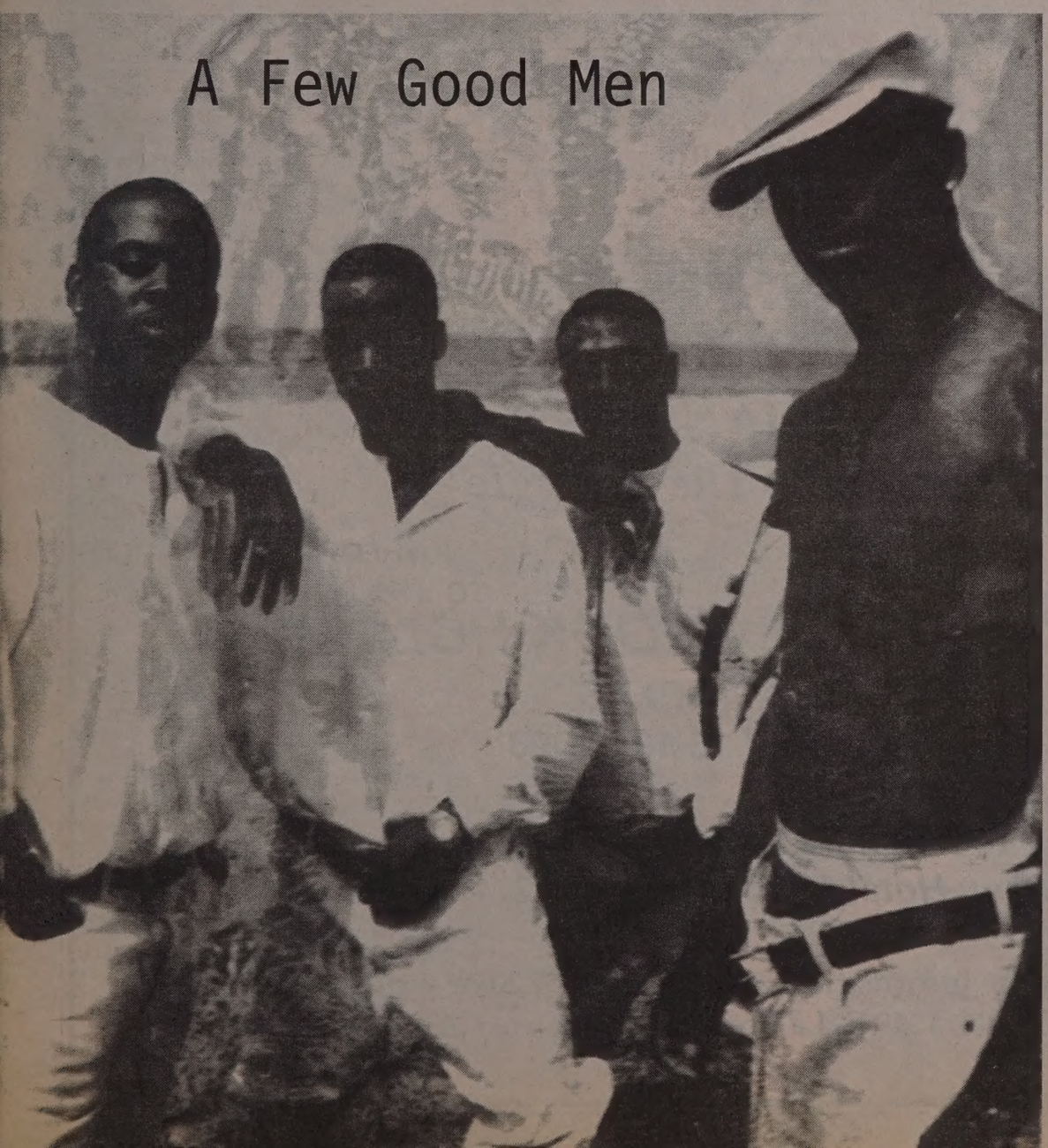
Also, girlfriend, get yourself some Prozac! All that relentless sadness and those meditations on loss were cute on snowy nights in a college dormitory. But, been there, done that, remember—on the first album?

Indeed, since then we've seen the emergence of ME'SHELL NDEGEOCELLO, SHERYLL CROW, TLC, QUEEN LATIFAH, COURTNEY LOVE and this year's monster newcomers like DIONNE FARRIS and ALANIS MORISSETTE andtheupandcoming comer, HEATHER NOVA. Add to that the reemergence of veteran sangin/ songwritin/ guitartotin'/ pianoplayin, kick ass divas like TEENA MARIE, PATRICE RUSHEN, CHRYSSIE HINDE and RICKIE LEE JONES [just check out her blistering and brilliant new NAKED SONGS from which a savvy artist could mine some killer R&B tunes] who are more clever, more adept at being rawyetsavvy, better at making a point subtly, poetically.

If not for that lovely, earthy contralto of Chapman's (which deserves far better material than she appears capable of writing at this time) she could make a fortune giving insomniacs a "New Beginning."

REBA DOES DONNA

Dynamic disco doll, DONNA SUMMER, jets in from Nashville for a New Year's Eve performance at LA's Universal Amphitheater as a preamble to next year's gaggle of open air summer concerts and an upcoming cluboriented album. Interestingly, even as she resurges in popularity with the renewed appreciation of disco (and techno pop), it looks like the queen of the clubs is poised to conquer the country music scene all over again with the release of country superstar REBA MCENTIRE's latest, STARTING OVER. The title track (a big hit for country/pop superstar, DOLLY PARTON, a few years back) was written by Donna Summer. Hmmm... I guess we can all get along if we all know the tune.



SEND MABEL KING SOME LOVE YALL

And finally, let's send up a holiday prayer for one of Hollywood's favorite moms, MABEL KING. On December 14, friends of Ms. King's tributed the actress best known for her role as the widowed mother of two teenagers in the hit 1970's sitcom, WHAT'S HAPPENING and for her role as the Wicked Witch, Evilene, in both the Broadway and film versions of THE WIZ. Ms. King's physical and financial health have taken a downturn in recent years. After losing the use of her left arm to a stroke in 1990, diabetes has since claimed both legs and a 1994 fall from her wheelchair damaged her teeth and face. Yet, like Job, her faith and resolve remain strong.

Last year's tribute raised the funds necessary to purchase Ms. King's wheelchair. Hopefully this year will bring Ms. King greater fortune in every area. If you would like to help, contact the WE CARE ABOUT LIFE TEAMS at (818) 7604403 or FAX (818) 760 2514.

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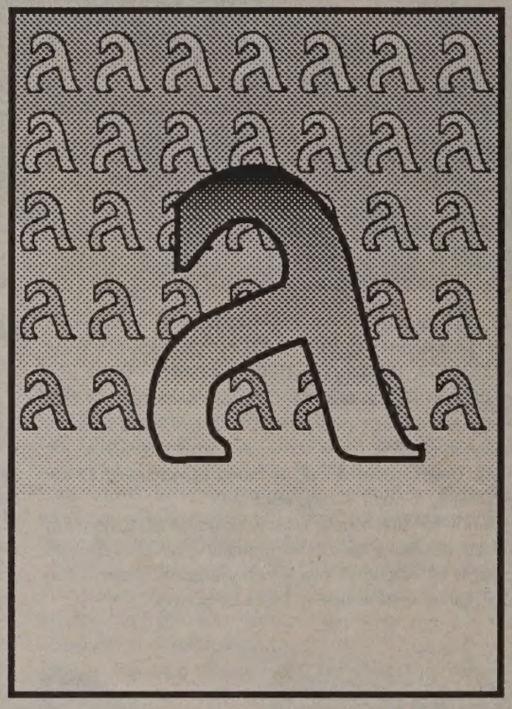

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LONELY GM, 36, 5 ' 9", BROWN EYES, BLK HAIR, SLIM BUILD, IN GREAT SHAPE AND HEALTH ISO honesty, romance and caring. I am seeking professional gay man for long time monogamous friendship, possible relationship. I've taken a few wrong turns in my life and feel that with a special someone my life can be meaningful again. You will not be disappointed. Waiting. John W. Moore #89970/ Kentucky State Penitentiary/ P.O. Box 128/ Eddyville, Ky. 42038.

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TIRED OF GAMES? TIRED OF LONELY? Professional GM, 5' 10", 45, romantic & life mate oriented, is in search of honest, dynamic, affectionate Black or PR male. 21—40? Hung 8++? I love to kiss, cuddle, suck, be sucked and BE fucked. Serious only. 414.445.5552.

MARYLAND

ME: WELL HUNG, MUSCULAR, AFFECTIONATE, CLEAN-SHAVEN BM, 5' 10", 31w, 175 lbs. You: small waist and big protruding bubble butt. Let's connect for some man loving. Harold P.O. Box 22263/Baltimore, Md. 21203-4263.

MICHIGAN

VERY ATTRACTIVE, VERSATILE BM, MID 20'S, 6', 195 WORKOUT LBS., medium brown, masculine, affectionate and friendly with many interests ISO handsome BM or Puerto Rican who's masculine, muscular or in good shape, with a nice personality for a serious 1-2-1 relationship. Tall and/or hairy is a plus but not necessary: Honesty is. If you're serious about a relationship with a quality person who's good looking and you're the same, please write and let's get to know one another. Replies welcome from throughout U.S. No fats, fems, or games. Robert Scott/ 9223 Priest/ Detroit, MI 48228-2207.

MISSISSIPPI

ATTRACTIVE AND HANDSOME 26 YEAR OLD AFRICAN AMERICAN MALE with light complexion seeks attractive men ages 18 to 30. I am versatile, you be bottom or top, African American, Hispanic and hot. Write to Bob/ p.o. Box 101/ Okolona, MS. 38860.

MISSOURI

MY BODY'S CALLIN', DISTANT LOVER. I will be right here so have no fear. Need very muscular bod with a beautiful personality and smile for friendship and relationship! Let's talk about it. Send photo clothed or naked. I'm easy to please. Darren. 3401 E. 62nd/Kansas City, MO. 64130.

SLIM ATTRACTIVE BGM, 29, 5' 11", 160 LBS. would like to meet a very open-minded male of any race who is straight acting and looking. Send photo to K. Lawrence/ 4246 St. Louis Ave./ St. Louis, MO. 63115.

WASHINGTON D.C.

GBM SEEKING TO MEET OTHER GBM'S. I'm 5' 6 1/2" 130 lbs., 28w, swimmer's build, culinary graduate, travel, sports, easy-going, enjoys life, stable, financially secure, light drinker—no smoke or drugs. Relationship oriented. Tim. Box 77913 Washington D.C. 20013.

TORONTO, CANADA

FRENCHMAN, 40'S, MASCULINE, WELL-BUILT, AFFECTIONATE, seeks genuine friendship with GBM anywhere. Interests: nature, fitness, cycling, snorkeling, music, movies...Box 222, Station C, Toronto, Canada M6J 3M9.

JAMAICA, WEST INDIES

ATTRACTIVE MIXED RACE GM, LOOKS PR, 34, 5' 11", 170 LBS. Athletic and into sports, seeks gay Black man for hot correspondence. You: handsome, masculine, 30—40, in-shape to muscular. Write: Harris/1 St. Lucia Ave./ Shop 35, Suite 2/ Spanish Court, Kingston 5/Jamaica W.I.

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WHAT DO WE HAVE IN COMMON besides being hung over-average and good looking? Box # 1378

NEW IN TOWN, BRITISH-NIGERIAN young black man, 29 yrs., 5' 7", 8" dick, slim, defined swimmer's body. Seeks other Nigerians, West Africans and other Africans for friendship fun and more. You—between 25-35 yrs., under 6 ft., well built, well hung (over 8"), str8 looking/acting. Top. Box # 2142

BGM, MASCULINE, 6', 190 LBS. LIGHT SKIN BOTTOM ISO warm and masculine BM who will squeeze, caress & excite every inch of my thighs, butt & tummy. Dick size unimportant, but no drugs, fats or fems. Box # 1379

VERY WELL-ENDOWED, VERY ATTRACTIVE, CUT, VERSATILE, HIV-, 24 YEAR OLD BLACK MAN, 6', 170 lbs., great long slim body, great smile, great personality and great sex. ISO HIV-, very well-endowed, very attractive and personable Black men, 25-40, with good bodies (no over-weights) and great sexual abilities (a little on the freaky side is not bad). I am into hot, safe sexual encounters. I am not into games, flakes, fems and/or irresponsibility. Let's hook up soon. You will not be disappointed. Box # 2122

30 YR OLD SINGLE AND FREE BM TOP seeks a Black Bottom, ages 29 to 31, for friendship, fun and/or sex. Box # 1273

ATTRACTIVE BM, 65, 5' 11", 152 LBS., HIV- ISO young, attractive, lean TOP who wants to find out how tight and satisfying a senior citizen's buns are. Box # 1063

30ISH CUBAN-AMERICAN MAN-CHILD, 5' 10", 175 lbs., solid, husky build, caramel skin, green eyes, blk hair, thick legs, great ass, non-fem bottom, boyish charm. ISO big dick tops that like to fuck. Long Beach area yea. Box # 2111

WANTED: VERY LARGE, HARD, ROUNDED BUNS with smooth, muscular body, masculine, HIV-, easy-going, for friendship or more. Me: Hispanic, 5' 10", 180 lbs., down-to-earth, athletic body, outdoors, masculine, HIV-, well-endowed. Box # 1341

2 ATTRACTIVE, WELL-HUNG YOUNG MEN 23 & 19 y.o., In/Out. Looking to perform tag team for any serious persons with finances. A time to remember. Tops and bottoms are welcomed. Call for hot young sex. Box # 2130

GWM SEEKING BLACK MUSCLE STUDS TO FUCK MY FACE. Love to deep throat uncut black meat. Bodybuilders A+, uniform men A+. Would love to sharpen your pencil. The bigger the better Box # 3050

19 YEAR OLD BLACK MALE STUDENT ISO a very attractive roughneck, 18-25, for more than sex! Box # 1355

QUE PASA? PUERTORIQUENO DE 21 ANOS, DE ALTURA REGULAR Y CURPO mediano, moreno, busca companero latino masculino, alto, con verga y wevos grande. Me gusta disfruter mucho, afuera y dentro de la cama! Soy sincero, simpatico, decente, y busco alquien con la mismas qualidades! Si quieres harcelo Llama Attora! Box # 4083

HANDSOME, 5' 9", BROWN HAIR, BLUE EYES, NATURAL LOOKING WHITE MALE M.A. STUDENT who likes the outdoors, movies, great conversation, sensuality. Seeking very masculine, good-looking, fit, 30-35 y.o. Top, caramel skin with similar interest for dating. Box # 1360

I AM A VERY AFRICENTRIC BROTHER, age 49, 215 lbs., handsome and well educated. Seeking an Africentric Brother who is self-loving, sensitive, and caring! Age not an issue. no smokers or drugs. If you love Black people, give me a call. Hotep. Box # 2121

DARK GBM, 27 YRS. OLD, 6' 2", 210 LBS. WELL HUNG TOP. Great body, HIV-. You be well hung versatile 21-35 clean Black men only. No games. Be honest, HIV-. GOOD TIMES AND NASTY SEX. PLEASE, DISCREET ONLY. GET AT ME. Box # 1013

WANTED: TALL, DARK AND HANDSOME BROTHER. I'm 32, 5' 9", 165 lbs., light complexion, attractive, muscular. ISO serious-minded, masculine, muscular BLK man for friendship and possible relationship. Box # 2128

HOT ROMANTIC BIBM (NEW TO L.A. FROM CHICAGO) VGL 5' 8", 145 LBS., 29 yrs., slim, masculine, discreet—into dancing, sports, workouts, talks and hot fun. Seeks friends of any race and someone that is very slim and under 35 yrs., to date. UB open-minded, kind, intelligent, well-rounded and, if to date, a bottom or versatile. Lee. Box # 4060

HANDSOME, SEXY, HOT ITALIAN MALE 5' 9", 150 lbs., hazel eyes, dark hair, moustache, 30 y.o. bottom seeks handsome muscular slim Black male whose romantic, sensual, loving and aggressive for possible lover. You won't be disappointed. Willing to relocate for the right guy. Box # 2058

WELL BUILT, WELL HUNG BGM ISO GOOD BOTTOM SEX. 28 y.o. uncut top wants your bottom for long, deep sessions. I'm hung thick and versatile. If this sounds good to you, give me a call. Box # 1004

I AM TALL, BROWN AND HANDSOME. I am 50 years old. I seek an Afrocentric Brother not hung up on age. If you are sincere and honest, give me a call. Box # 2144

VERY HANDSOME BLONDE/BLUE-EYED GWM BOTTOM, great body and BB; seeks masculine, aggressive and very well-hung Black Top. I'm very sexual and sensual; love it hot/hard or long/slow. Dark, over 40 and hung HUGE A+++! My mouth and ass NEVER disappoint. Box # 1080

TOP GBM, 33, 5' 8", 160 LBS. 9" HANDSOME. You: 24+ in shape, attractive light skin bottom, looking for companion and possible relationship. Box # 4040

ATTRACTIVE GWM BOTTOM, 38, 5' 10", 163 LBS., VERY ORAL, big round tight butt, intelligent, affectionate professional with a sense of humor, seeks GBM top, 30-45, muscular and macho, goal-oriented, (hung big and uncut A+). I seek and give honesty, good sex and true affection. Box # 3015

STOP THE BULLSHIT! Whatever happened to all U so-called men that claim U R looking for a good bottom. I am a mature, intelligent, masculine BM in search of a Top. I love romance, jazz, to mention a few. Also safe sex and relationship oriented. Box # 1001

FAT BOTTOM GUYS. Let's scream the night away on, around and outside the bed. Race open. Age open. HIV-. I'm 6', 240 lbs. Mid-Wilshire area. Box # 1352

CARAMEL COLORED BLACK MALE, NICE BODY, NICE EYES and a pair of lips that can make the right MAN very happy! I'm looking for someone who loves kissing and who has a clean bubble butt for tossing all night. Interested? Call me! Box # 1032

FUN LOVING MEDIUM BUILD ITALIAN MALE who loves nature, entertainment and togetherness. ISO a black male without a giant ego who enjoys the simple pleasures of life and loving. Be forewarned; I spoil my lover with love, caring and kindness, but believe it's a two-way street. Love, Tony. Box # 4077

TAKE ME. BG MASCULINE BOTTOM. I am a Black male 39 years old. Looking for a good-looking, aggressive black male top between 25-39, well hung, who knows what he's doing with this bottom. I want to meet someone who likes to go to the movies and to spend quality time at home. For I am tired of meeting men in bars. So if you are the one, please let me hear from you. I will answer you back. Box # 2141

VERY HANDSOME CLEAN-CUT WHITE BOY, nice lean build, looking for dark, hung. muscular, Black Top who's ready for just about anything. I'm wild and ready to party. Box # 2147

ATTRACTIVE BLACK MASCULINE MAN, EX-MILITARY, 37 y.o., 5' 10", 165 lbs., slim muscular body, medium brown complexion who prefers being a bottom, seeks masculine, aggressive top Black in-shape brothers who pack 8 1/2 or more of long/thick pipe (and know how to use it), for safe, clean, erotic fun. Hairy A+. Let's talk. Box # 1290

VERY MUSCULAR WHITE DUDE, INCREDIBLY HUNG 12 3/4" x 7 1/2", looking for black studs hung my size or bigger! No B.S.—Serious only. Josh Box # 2123

THIS MASCULINE, ATTRACTIVE, BALD-HEADED BROTHER WANTS TO FUCK AND SUCK YOU ALL NIGHT LONG. I'm 5' 10", 165 lbs., in shape. If you're real hot, call me. Box # 1185

HOPELESS ROMANTIC GBM, 31, 6' 1", 145 LBS., fun-loving and caring. Enjoys quiet romantic nights and cuddling. Seeks serious-minded individual for fun, friendship and/or possible relationship. Box # 1186

WANTED: HANDSOME CENTERFOLD, VERY BUILT, MUSCULAR MEN, no fats. I want to stroke you up if you don't mind. I have a beautiful smile, sensitive and shy. Maybe you can break me in in more than just one way. Please respond. Box # 1312

SEEKING HANDSOME, GBM BODY-BUILDER, 30, WHOSE AD WAS IN THE SPRING EDITION OF SBC. You were box #4029. I'm 29, GBM, masculine, 5' 10", 185 lbs, and also work out. If you hook up with me, you would not have to settle. Box # 4070

ISO LONG(ISH?) HAIRED WHITE MALE. Me: Non-stereotypical Black Male Top. Tall, masculine, nice looking, romantic, monogamous, emotionally available, drug-drink-smoke-free, spiritual, professional. Regular guy into sports, music, people, intimacy. Physical performance not required. Age, type open. Prefer HIV-, cut, smooth, masculine, but very open! Box # 4067

BOTTOM ISO TOP BLK MAN. Me: Italian, 40, 5' 2", 130 lbs., well built, light brown hair, green eyes. You: Blk, total top who likes to have his dick sucked and loves to fuck. Well-endowed a must. Ciao. Box # 1351

XTREMELY MASCULINE BLACK MALE—VERY ATTRACTIVE, 28 y.o., 6', 190 lbs. Well built, employed and very independent. ISO Latin/Hispanic Cholo type with similar characteristics, for definite possible relationship. Should be HIV+ and, like me, healthy & versatile. Outy!! Box # 1051

BIG GOOD LOOKING WHITE BODYBUILDER/MUSICIAN seeks relationship with big Black man who likes being on top. I'm 6 ft. 210 lbs., hairy, nice smooth bubble butt. You be muscular/ chunky/ thick/ masculine. Please call. Box # 1011

SLIM, YOUNG GBM, 18, I'm 5' 10", 137 lbs., black wavy hair, slender build. I love romance, very sensitive, caring, quiet but strong, and loving. Seeking another SLIM GBM or GHM for a serious, honest relationship; someone who is not into games and knows what they want, preferably under 25 yrs. old. Box # 1281

HIP-HOP LOVERS. BAGGY CLOTHES HOMEBOY ONLY. WHAT'S UP! I'm 24. 5' 8", 150, gay Japanese male N2 hip-hop music n' clothing, movies, gym. UB young, masculine, attractive. Lorenz Tate type A+ (not nec.) Box # 1046

BM, 30, LIGHT SKIN, MUSCULAR TOP, 6', 190 LBS., WITH A FAT NINE seeking light/light brown muscular/masculine bottom(s) for hot sessions. I'm looking for a good ride. If you're a freak, leave a message. Box number # 1127

HANDSOME & ROMANTIC TOP. A 30 years old Brother, 6 ft., 165 lbs., HIV-, is seeking a romantic Brother in his 30's for candle light dinners, theater, quiet evenings of invigorating conversation and much more. Box # 2028

HOT MASTER NEEDED TO ADMINISTER STRICT DISCIPLINE, spankings, dildos, enemas, fucking. Any age. GWM, 45, Be creative. I need it. Hard! Box # 3043

ATTRACTIVE, SLIM TIGHT BOTTOM BGM SEEKS WELL-ENDOWED BGM TOP. I'm 31 y.o., 5' 9", 148 lbs. and looking to give it up. Box # 1325

GBM, 35, 5' 11", 175 LBS., HIV-, ATTRACTIVE, SWIMMER'S BODY. Looking for GBM between 30-40. Someone in-shape, attractive, honest and not afraid to love another Black man. Serious callers only. Box # 1012

33 Y.O. SLIM HUNG HORNY MEXICAN W/PARTNER seeks other Latin couples or singles for friendship & fun. Must be handsome, masculine, in-shape, HIV- & between 21-36. Box # 2047

GBM, 27, 6 FT., 200 LBS., ATTRACTIVE, very crazy sense of humor, light beard, masculine looking, ISO a Top Black man only, for the times of your life. You should be very masculine, love dogs & have a sense of humor. Box # 2079

VERY GOOD-LOOKING GBM TOP, 34 YEARS OLD, who believes in loving and caring relationships. Very nice body, 5' 9 1/2", 170 lbs., 9", ISO that loving relationship. I want to build that relationship with that someone very special 27-32 years old. Black, white, Asian. I'll love you and respect you always!!! Box # 1242

GBM HIV+ NON-SYMPTOMATIC, 5' 5", 136 LBS. 32 Y.O., I'm interested in music, movies, dancing, reading, singing and a real meaningful relationship only. Any race. Within my similar body form. Box # 3012

SEXY SENSUAL PASSIONATE NATIVE ITALIAN MAN, 28, OLIVE SKIN, dark hair & eyes, attractive, lean, cut, dancer body (but I am NOT a dancer), predominantly bottom, ISO attractive, intelligent, strong dominant black TOP (ages 27-35) for bedtime action, fun, friendship and maybe much much more. Box # 1334

GWM, 49, PROFESSIONAL, FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT, ISO self-supporting, 18-50, for communication, friendship, fun and adventure. Relationship a possibility. Ethnic a plus, humor a must. Reply, don't be shy. Giving and taking oral action, massage and cuddling important. Box # 4068

BGM, 5' 4", 135 LBS. CARAMEL, ATTRACTIVE, KIND, no attitude, versatile, attractive, intelligent and independent. Seeks BGM or Latino with similar attributes. San Fernando Valley. Box # 4039

YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT. NOW HERE'S WHERE IT IS.

BM, 25 YEARS OLD, 5' 9", 165 LBS. TOP, looking for Bottom, 18-25 years, for serious commitment. Masculinity is mandatory. No fakes. Box # 2045

MARRIAGE ANYONE? BGM, 39 years young, Taurus, HIV+ asymptomatic, fun loving, humorous, business oriented, attractive, looking for soul mate, friend, lover & business partner to create an exciting life together. I'm tired of the bar scene and want someone who enjoys the beach, movies, working out, skating & spending quality time with someone who wants the best out of life. You should be employed or financially stable, attractive, endowed, athletic, over 6 ft. tall a plus (but not necessary), spiritually connected and affectionate. I would eventually want to be married, with a ring, house with white picket fence, the works! If this is you, I look forward to your call and meeting you real soon. Box # 1317

HANDSOME AND HAIRY HIV- GWM, 190 lbs., seeks GBM HIV- Top that's honest, hung and horny, for a hot fun time & possible relationship. Call Gary. Westside Beach area. Box # 2102

TALL, SLENDER BOTTOM WITH DREADS, has tight bubble buns longing to be pried wide open or deep plunged. Has a gag-free, deep throat who can suck and fuck all night. Looking for another wild brother who can't do without sex. Make me sweat. Make me forget my X. Box # 1266

PROUD BOTTOM BM, 36, 5' 10", 165 LBS., handsome, ethnically conscious and masculine. I seek tall BM, 40's, fit and proud to be black. Or short BM, physically fit, proud, big feet. Pride in heritage a must! no fems or obese. Older brothers preferred (40's). Box # 1264

BEAUTIFUL BLACK MAN WANTS SLIM LATINO for love. For Life. HIV-. Box # 1324

YOU MUST BE BLACK. African American Brothers are the tigers I've always dreamt about. I'm looking for a Hot Real Man. With hardbody. Be Top and give nice warm passionate Love and Friendship to the Best Everlasting Serious Relationship. Me: From Africa. 24 y/o, 5' 6", 136 'bs., slim, good shape, nice body. Clean. New in L.A. Hold me before it's too late! Box # 1293

LOOKING FOR A BLK MAN 35-40 with a nice body, who wants a nice young boy and that has a nice body and stable home and enjoys outings. I'm 30 yrs. old, 170 lbs., well hung and Black. You must be versatile in the relationship, manly and enjoy hot sex. Box # 1307

TOP GBM, 40, 5/ 8", 165 LBS., ATTRACTIVE, IN SHAPE. You: 30 +, in shape and attractive, masculine, nice big bubble butt a plus. I fuck in Silverlake area. Box # 1322

SPIRITUAL BM, 6' 2", 205 LBS., HIV+, HANDSOME, LOVING, bottom mostly. You be 6' +, over 25, nice, spiritual, trusting, sexually top, nice looking, groomed. Full of love, faithful. No fems, W/D or fats. I'm hot and ready! Box # 1344

CUTE PUERTO RICAN AND BLACK GUY, 5' 11", 150 LBS., 35 y.o., HIV-, little on the fem side. Would like to meet handsome, versatile guy/any race, 25 to 35 y.o., for fun, movies, dancing, etc. No drugs. Serious only. Orange County Beach area please. Box #2110

RUFFNECK BASTARD WANTED. Me: Young BLK man, 5' 7", 27" w, 8" cut dick, lean, defined swimmer's body. Bottom. You: Under 6', workout body, flat stomach, 8" or more cut dick, Top homeboy/Latino skinhead, who's down for some ruff and rugged shit. Box # 2259

SINGLE AND SEXY HOT CHOCOLATE FLORIDA MAN, 5' 6", 145 lbs., seeks Black male for friendship, fun and/or sex. I'm endowed front and back. Leave a message. No fems please. Box # 1331

ATTRACTIVE, MASCULINE, MUSCULAR BM BOTTOM WITH NICE HAIRY BUBBLE BUTT seeks a very manly masculine well hung BM Topman who likes to lay some pipe. I live in Georgia but will visit L.A. soon. East meets West. Box # 1289

GHM, 24, BLK/GRN, SHAVED HEAD, STOCKY BUILD, 5' 11", shy, very down to earth, easy going, ISO masculine men, BLKs, Puerto Ricans & Latinos, 25-35, for dating and hopefully more. No games. Serious replies only. Not a sex ad. Box # 4064

GBM, 30, 5' 8", 155 LBS, enjoys tennis, movies, theater and quiet, intimate exchanges. Fresh from out East seeking someone to introduce me to the West. Box # 2098

MATURE EXTRA ENDOWED BUDDY wanted by 40's BM, 6', 195, into french, videos & J/O/ Race & weight okay. Inland Empire area. Ready for long hot sessions. Box # 2118

GBM, 32, 6' 1", 160 LBS. I AM MARRIED but looking for serious minded part time love. I enjoy music, TV and long walks on the beach. You be in good shape, open minded, rough trade. Bi okay, strong willed and minded. Versatile a big plus. Must be discreet. Box # 1286

SEX GAM, 20'S, SMOOTH, TAN, ATHLETIC, ISO guys under 30 for friendship, fun & more...please be sincere & down 2 earth. Into R&B, running, politics & more...call me! Box # 1336

VERY WELL-ENDOWED, VERY ATTRACTIVE, CUT, VERSATILE, HIV-, 24 YEAR OLD BLACK MAN, 6', 170 lbs., great long slim body, great smile, great personality and great sex. ISO HIV-, very well-endowed, very attractive and personable Black men, 25-40, with good bodies (no over-weights) and great sexual abilities (a little on the freaky side is not bad). I am into hot, safe sexual encounters. I am not into games, flakes, fems and/or irresponsibility. Let's hook up soon. You will not be disappointed. Box # 2122

BGM, 35, MASCULINE, MUSCULAR TOP, 5'11", 170 lbs., HIV-, seeks well-endowed GBM bottoms between 35-50 for sexual friction and casual friendship. Box # 1169

WANTED: BLACK OR PUERTO RICAN BOTTOMS. Hot black top seeks hot hairy-ass bottom body builder. If you are hot, hairy, horny and a freak, leave a message. Box # 1190

DARK WARRIORS ONLY. Seeking a GBM dark skinned warrior. I'm a hot GBM bottom, 21, cat brown eyes, light brown skinned, 5' 5", medium build. I enjoy movies, dancing, dinners, music and collecting Teddy bears. I'm seeking a GBM top, 21-35, dark skinned a plus. If you want a new friend, call. Box # 1181

32, 6', 175 EXTRA FINE SMOOTH BLOND BOY PUSSY seeks extra fat horse dick to ride. I'm 100% masculine. U.B. 100% top, verbal, nasty a.h. and hungry to fuck some butt. Got hot fantasies to explore. Let's go there. Call now! Box # 3045

NICE LOOKING BM, 6' 1", 205 LBS. VERY BIG LEGS, XXXCALFS. I need BIG DICK TRADE to go deep into my pussy. Only 95% tops. Be good looking, professional, clean, nice, Black, P. Rican, Cuban, Latin. I'm manly and fem. No queens or fems, or under 9" Box # 1252

CARIBBEAN NATIVE: SUCCESSFUL, CUTE, FRENCH-SPEAKING, 34, 5' 9", 140 LBS. New to L.A., into cycling, swimming, travel and romance. Looking for a special, independent, masculine topman, any age, who appreciates the finer things i life. Homeboy or cholo type will be considered. Box # 1133

AFFECTIONATE, EASY-GOING, FUN TO BE WITH GAY ASIAN MALE seeks straight-acting or straight man of color for friendship and maybe much more. Box # 2090

HANDSOME, ROMANTIC BLACK PASSIONATE TOP MAN. Black male, 6'1, 190 lbs., looking for a hot Black man with nice body who wants really nice, warm and passionate love made to him. Box # 1026

W. FRENCH MAN ISO BIG BLACK TOP. I'm a great cook (including soul), healthy and playful, 5' 5", 160 lbs., 43 y.o., into arts & culture, walks, biking, roller skates, Star Trek, computers. You are intelligent, not2hairy, black non-smoker any age, HIV+ OK. Let's be friends; you can become my Prince Charming! Box # 1239

BLACK MALE, 6' 1", 39 YEARS OLD. I'm a bottom who is looking for a well hung cock on a masculine male to work on this "hot" ass all night long. If this sounds good to you, give me a call. Box # 2089

GBM, HOT, MASCULINE, INDEPENDENT, SHY, sexually passive bottom with potential, seeks Black, aggressive gentleman for intimacy and fun. Hairy chest and hung a plus. Looks unimportant. Boy, call me! I'll cook. Box # 1333

HOT WHITE SOUL MAN SEEKS HANDSOME HORSE HUNG TOP. Me: 6', 170, 8", smooth, muscular, butch, passionate, bottom beauty. UB muscular, masculine & hung huge to satisfy my hungry hole & deep throat. Equipped playroom available. Be cool. Call. Box # 1272

SINGLE AND FREE. I am a 30 year old unattached Top who seeks a Black Bottom, ages 29 to 31, for friendship, fun and/or sex. Box # 1273

ATTRACTIVE BM, 65, 5' 11", 152 LBS., HIV- ISO young, attractive, lean TOP who wants to find out how tight and satisfying a senior citizen's buns are. Box # 1063

WANTED: VERY LARGE, HARD, ROUNDED BUNS with smooth, muscular body, masculine, HIV-, easy-going, for friendship or more. Me: Hispanic, 5' 10", 180 lbs., down-to-earth, athletic body, outdoors, masculine, HIV-, well-endowed. Box # 1341

2 ATTRACTIVE, WELL-HUNG YOUNG MEN 23 & 19 y.o., In/Out. Looking to perform tag team for any serious persons with finances. A time to remember. Tops and bottoms are welcomed. Call for hot young sex. Box # 2130

ATTRACTIVE, DARK-SKINNED BGM BOTTOM DEEP THROATER wants to service a well-endowed Black TOP. I am 30 years old, slim, 5' 8", 150 lbs. and discreet. Call me. Box # 1115

SERIOUS, AFFECTIONATE, MASCULINE, HEALTHY, PROFESSIONAL BGM 5' 10 1/2", 190 lbs. Motorcycle riding, camping, weight lifting, contact sports, movies and gardening a favorite. Seeks other BGM with similar interests between 40 and 60 for friendship and possible relationship. Box # 1076

PASSIONATE AFFECTIONATE GAY ASIAN MALE wanting to meet straight-straight acting, real dark and light-skin African Americans or anyone of African decent. Box # 2038

A BOTTOM SEEKING A TOP. Black gay male 39 years old, 6' 1", 200 lbs. I am looking for a Top 25-37, down to earth, loving, caring, romantic. Someone intelligent & understanding who loves to get down all night long. Please leave a message. Box # 3003

VERY CUTE SALVADOREAN/LATINO, 5' 7", light brown eyes, curly black hair. hairy body, nice tanned color. I am stable and would like to meet Black and Latino guys (Central Americans, Caribeños) with similar qualities. Box # 2039

PASSIONATE, STABLE, TOGETHER WM seeking a mate. Preferably GBM. I'm 30 y.o., 5' 8", 155 lbs., attractive, sexy & a bottom. Sincere, intelligent, attractive, sexy, no games, none-scene type of individual wanted. Seek and you shall find—Box # 2020

ATTRACTIVE HISPANIC BOTTOM, 44, medium build, with love buns, seeks well hung Black Top man with very thick 8" or more for prolong hot times on a regular basis. Make me take it in any way you can deliver it. Box # 1096

VGL WM, 30, 6', 192 LBS into very muscular, intelligent, fun, affectionate, communicative Black men. I am articulate, witty, fun, with a good sense of humor, into working out, music, movies and friends. I am a good catch and you should be too. Box # 2113

I AM A VERY AFRICENTRIC BROTHER, age 49, 215 lbs., handsome and well educated. Seeking an Africentric Brother who is self-loving, sensitive, and caring! Age not an issue. no smokers or drugs. If you love Black people, give me a call. Hotep. Box # 2121

BG ACTIVIST,40, HIV+, SEEKS SAME. Looking for someone who enjoys life and love. Must live in the Sacramento area. Peace. Box # 2056

SMOOTH, SLENDER BLACK MAN wants to explore domination / submission, discipline / control, daddy / son & leather. Box # 1061

VERY HANDSOME, WELL-ENDOWED BGM, 24 years old, 170 lbs., caramel complexion, long, lean, great body, seeking handsome, well-endowed Black men only between 24 and 35 years old. Must be in-shape and like to have a good safe time. No fats or fems. Box # 2088

GORGEOUS, SHAPELY, INTELLIGENT, EDUCATED, HOT-CHOCOLATE TRANSGENDER, 5' 4", 125 lbs. ISO tall, well endowed, intelligent and aggressive black man with high self-esteem, career goals and good love-making techniques. Call me and tell me about yourself. Box # 1261

GBM, 34, WITH CEREBRAL PALSY, who loves life & all it has to offer. Looking for friendship and/or possible relationship. HIV+. Box #1188

HOT MEXICAN MALE, 41 y/o, 5' 9", 190 lbs. I'm very masculine, honest and friendly. Seek males 30/50 y/o. No drugs, no smoking. Give me a call. Box # 1069

ATTRACTIVE, FOREIGN WHITE MALE, 35, 5' 10", 180 LBS., muscular, discreet but fun, reliable, green/blue eyes, loving, seeks smart, extremely muscular and thick Black gentleman, over 220 lbs. of beef, to work out together and have a good friendship. Try me. Box # 2060

THROAT INSPECTIONS! Hot beefy handsome bi white/Anglo Texan stud (43) with one truly gorjuicy multi-loaded everhard 7" cut tool ISO very talented, hungry, service-oriented cocksucker(s): any race or age! Looks unimportant. Ability is!! Service me at my own places in Long Beach and Palm Springs. "Mac" Box # 2091

ROMANTIC BROTHER WANTING TO MEET SOMEONE REAL. Me: 29 y.o., 5' 11", nice looking Brother. I'm strong, kind-hearted, sensitive and self-assured. Reaching out to another Brother who's real, who wants a lover, but has the patience to gain a friend first. You: A nice looking Brother, mature, with same interests. Box # 1189

VERY GOOD-LOOKING, SOPHISTICATED CARIBBEAN, 33, 6' 2", lean 162 lbs., tight bottom. ISO rugged, muscular, open, dark, Black or Latino TOP man with HUGE meat, preferably hairy and under 45, for passionate lovemaking and friendship without games. Call me. You'll be very happy. Box # 1298

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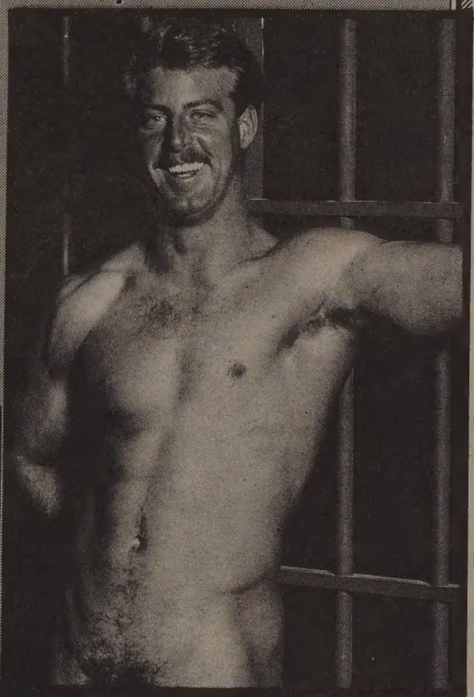

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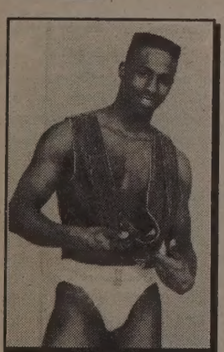

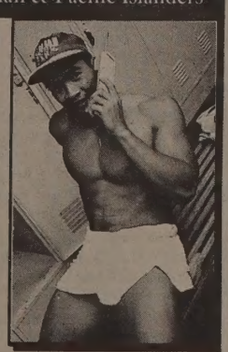

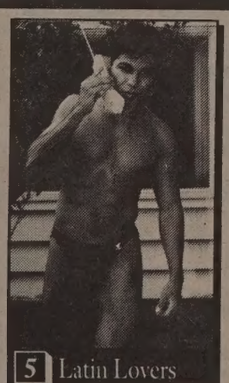

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Mail your FREE ad (by the 15th of the month in order for it to appear in the following issue) to:
SBC/ 1205 4th Avenue/
Los Angeles, California 90019/ Phone:
213.733.5661

ME: ATTRACTIVE BROWN SKIN BGM TOP, 30, SWIMMER'S BODY, 5' 10", 165 LBS, laid back, secure and adventurous. You: Black, Puerto Rican, 26-35, 5' 7" to 6' 1". For friendship, companionship and sensual good times. Box # 1170

VERY CUTE SINGLE HISPANIC MALE, 23 Y.O., 5' 9", 185 lbs., light brown eyes. Looking for people to go out and have fun with. I like dancing, movies and all that fun stuff. If interested leave a message. Box # 1255

TIRED OF MEETING GUYS WHO CAN'T TAKE ALL YOUR HUGE COCK? GWM, hot and nasty, likes it deep and hard! 5' 9", 150 lbs., BR/BL, sweet ass, deep throat suction. You—aggressive GBM, in good shape who loves to pound a tight white ass! Must be hung thick and long. Box # 1270

GHM, 47 Y.O., 5' 7", 145 LBS., ATTRACTIVE, SMART, DOWN TO EARTH & EASY GOING ISO masculine, secure Top GBM 40 y.o. or older. Call. Box # 4026

HUNGRY FOR ADVENTURE & SOMETHING DIFFERENT? Masculine black man, young 40's, 175 lbs., in search of other men who R into Leather. UB masculine Top, well-endowed, honest & sincere. No fats, fems or drugs. Safe fun only please.Box # 1346

HANDSOME, MUSCULAR, GBM, 35. I'm 6' 2", 235 lbs., shy, masculine, honest, disease-free and strictly a bottom. UB a Top, tall, hung, passionate and ready to fuck me silly. Age & race open. Bi or straight fine with me. Box #1006

WM, 50, NICE LOOKING PROFESSIONAL, VERSATILE, seeks straight acting B/or HM versatile, super hung that is warm, honest & employed for good time and possible relationship. Enjoy outdoors, beach, mountains and just staying home. Box # 3031

GOOD HEAD FROM ATTRACTIVE, MATURE BLACK MAN, light skin, 6', 175 lbs. I want to meet top man to service on a regular basis. Box # 3033

NIGGAZ ONLY. No wan'na be bitches, fat motherfuckers, bathhouse hoes, skinny or fuck limited people. Us: sexy big dick niggaz. U: fine, deep juice booty niggaz with warm mouths and long, thick tongues. Leave your number so we can fuck you down. Box # 2077

HANDSOME, BLACK 33 Y.O. DEEP THROAT. I love to give oral satisfaction to the right masculine Black man. Call me for long night sessions. Box # 1241

HOT AND HORNY TOP. Black man, 31, 5'11, 175 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, smooth toned body, big cut dick. Into good times and romance. Box # 1210

EDUCATED, CULTURED 6' 2", 198 LBS GENTLEMAN 45 years old seeks mature professional 25-40 with similar physical and intellectual qualifications, interested in music, arts, exercise and totally mellow in the bedroom as well as the salon! HIV- or + OK. Romanticism essential. Box # 2055

DEEP CHOCOLATE MAN Sexy, 5' 6", 150 lbs., endowed front and back, wants GBM to kick it with. Leave a message and tell me what you want. No fems pls. Box # 1199

HOT HORNY BLACK MEN WANTED BY BLOND GWM. Let my mouth and tongue worship every part of you—cock, balls, asshole, armpits, toes, Adam's apple, etc. Call. You'll enjoy! Box # 4057

GOOD-LOOKING CARAMEL BLACK MALE, 5' 10", 145 lbs., 38 y.o. bottom looking for one good top man between 23-43 for friendship, possible relationship and much, much more. I like movies, long drives, music, dancing and cooking. Are you aggressive, spontaneous, personable and know how to please? Let's kick it. Call me Box # 1197

TIRED OF CRUIZE SPOTS LIKE PARKS, BOOKSTORES, ETC.? Cum and let's all 20 of us do it together and fuck the night away. We get together once a month. Tell all your fit, in-shape and muscular friends to cum join in. Leave a message with your phone #. Box # 1135

ROMANTIC CUTE GBM TOP, 23, 5' 11", HIV+, IN SHAPE, GOATEE, ISO cute, in shape gay Black, Latin, Cuban or Puerto Rican male 21-32, HIV- bottom for friendship/relationship. N2 movies, dancing, holding hands and walks on the beach. Goatee A+. No fats or fems. Box # 2153

I'M A 36 Y.O. BLACK WARRIOR IN NEED of any mature, well-endowed masculine Black King (above 22 years) to lead me into your most desired fantasy. If you're that big Dick Black King who could serve me right (from the back), call me and let your warrior please you your way. Black well-hung Kings only. Box # 1269

ATTRACTIVE 30 Y.O. LATIN MALE 5' 7", 140 lbs., who enjoys swimming, working out, movies and all kinds of music ISO Latin guys 18-35 for fun and romance. Box # 1089

VERY ATTRACTIVE BLACK/HISPANIC, 21 YEARS OLD, 5' 11", 170 LBS., light skin, boyish, seeks black, masculine, muscular, attractive father figure or big brother type 4 a serious sexual and loving relationship. U must be clean. No drugs, fats, fems or flakes. Dark skin A+. Box # 1053

KIND & AFFECTIONATE BLACK MAN, 38 YEARS OLD, seeks same for good sex, monogamy, fun times & more (hopefully long term). You must be willing to spend quality time with an intelligent, goal oriented Black man. Serious only. Box # 2248

MASCULINE PRO ATHLETE. Very Good-looking, 6 ft, 190 lbs., Jock, Blonde, Straight Acting, Toned Body, Hot-Hard Bubble Butt, Bi-Curious, Aggressive Bottom & Versatile. Not Into Bar Scene. Seeks: Masculine, Athletic, Well Hung Jock, In-Shape Hot Black Man. Sincere Only. Don't Pass This Up. Box # 1105

BM TOP ISO WM FOR MONOGAMOUS RELATIONSHIP. Long Hair? Great! But okay from preppy to professional to midlength to shaved. Depends on the person. Me: Tall, masculine, attractive, mustache/goatee. drug, drink, smoke-free; spiritual, into sports, music. Prefer HIV-, cut, clean-shaven, non-smoker, but open. Can you say "COMMITMENT"? Box # 4067

LONG BEACH SEXY HISPANIC BOTTOM SEEKS 10"+ BGM or any race, monster meats in Long Beach; 21-40. I can take it. I'm 28 years old, safe and HIV-. Let's have fun at your place. Peace! Box # 1254

CARIBBEAN NATIVE: SUCCESSFUL, CUTE, French-speaking, 34, 5' 9", 140 lbs, new to L.A., into cycling, swimming, travel and romance. Looking for a special, independent, masculine topman, any age, who appreciates the finer things in life. Homeboy or cholo type will be considered. Box # 1057

MASCULINE GBM IN SEARCH OF HOT TOP LATINOS. Let's burn the sheets! Box # 1348

ATTRACTIVE, INTELLIGENT BGM TOP. I'm a 5' 8 ", 150 lb., medium built, HIV-, dark complexion, young-looking professional in my early 40's. ISO a very attractive, nicely built (neither overweight nor underweight) HIV- bottom brother in his 20's or 30's who is not in the closet, insecure or in denial. Box # 1074

CUTE, LIGHT-SKIN BLACK MALE, 21 seeks pretty boys 18-25, any race, for friendship, fun times, exciting night life, great sex. Box # 4051

BIG BUBBLE BUTT BOTTOMS! Me and a host of bubble butt in-shape masculine bottoms would like to invite big pipe dick brothuhs (only) to our monthly fuckfest. Come and fuck us down till we get raw. Answer this ad and you will be fucking some of the best ass in town. We are not and do not want fats, fems, or anything not black. Box # 2151

NON-STEREOTYPICAL NATIVE ITALIAN WHO LOVES TO FUCK AND BE SUCKED. Me: 38 years old, 5' 2", 128 lbs., well built. You: Preferably GBM and insatiable. Fat & fem plz abstain. Box # 3014

HANDSOME, HAIRY BLACK BOTTOM, 5' 10", 160lbs. seeks 6 ft. 2" or taller athletically-built top for friendship, fun and/or a possible relationship. Masculine only. 9" A+. No fats, fems please. Box # 1236

GAY AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALE, HIV+, 28 years old, 145 lbs., 5' 11" tall, very deep dark complexion, with a slender but tone body build. Would like to meet Gay Middle Eastern, Hispanic and Latin men between the ages of 25-35 for a monogamous slow romantic relationship, quality time and dating. Box # 1228

ATTRACTIVE, INTELLIGENT BLACK, DRUG-FREE, SMOKE-FREE TOP, 5' 8", 150 lbs., nice body, nice personality, moustache, ISO attractive, intelligent drug-free/smoke-free bottoms with similar traits who are into romantic sex. Box # 1303

SEXY WHITE BOTTOM BOY, 29, boyish good looks, bedroom blue eyes, with a hungry, warm asshole pussy that would love to open up and out, and wrap my hot pulsating hole tightly around your big black cock. You: 20-45, studly & hung. Guaranteed the ride of your life. Call and leave your number. Box # 4016

HOT HARDBODY TOP SEEKS HOT HARDBODY BOTTOMS for fun, good times and good love making. I'm big, black, beautiful and buff with lots of dick for yo' ass. Call me if you can take it. Box # 1174

A CUTE LATINO WANTED BY GOOD-LOOKING 30 Y.O.LATINO GAY MAN, 140 lbs., 5' 7", into gym, swimming, school, movies, with experience, HIV-, responsible and educated. U same. Outdoors be a gentleman, indoors be wild. no fems, fats or drugs. Call for friendship or more. First timers O.K. Box # 1089

BLACK MALE, 6' 1", 198 LBS. I'm 23 years old, looking for a dominant top to go to the movies and amusement parks with, between 22-35. Also, be at least 6' tall. Looking for friendship & possible relationship. Box # 4052

SBM HUNGRY FOR ADVENTURE & SOMETHING DIFFERENT. U B Top I'll be Bottom. Into fingering, spanking, safe sex. Well-endowed A+. Serious men only. Relationship oriented. No games or b/s. Box # 1230

GWM, 36, 6' 2", 185 LBS., NICE TAN BUBBLE BUTT BOTTOM wants BM uncut muscular Top who likes pounding tight white ass. I love to suck uncut Black cocks (muscles a must) I like to get J/O while getting it. Box # 3030

ATTRACTIVE PROFESSIONAL WHITE MALE, 47, 5' 10", 163 lbs., seeks muscular BM for dating, fun & romance, NS, ND. Box # 2069

FUCK BUDDY WANTED. Hot White Buck, 6' 2", 205 lbs., 46" C, 33" W, 17" A, Bottom, Chunky Clean White Bubble Butt, Masculine, 39, Big Thighs, Seeks TOPS over 35, who are aggressive, Dominant, Safe, freaky and Know what they like. Box # 1221

30 YEAR OLD HALF WHITE, HALF HISPANIC BOTTOM seeks professional GBM top, semi to good physical shape 29 to 45 years old for special monogamous 1 on 1 relationship. Penis size unimportant. I like cute carressable butts. Box # 2067

NEW ADVENTURE IN ALL MALE FUCKING! Black trade (masculine, all shades, hung and versatile) in all positions willing to do whatever it takes to get a piece of U (if you are tall, black, masculine and toned). We want you and your click to come together with ours for a group interlude. Leave a message!. Box #3022

TALL, DARK AND HANDSOME GBM TOP, 24, Intelligent, buff, college senior looking for GBM in good shape, great body and very intelligent, ready to meet and enjoy good company. Box # 1177

SENSUAL, SINCERE, STABLE, SAFE, EASY-GOING, GOOD-LOOKING, VERSATILE, GWM, HIV-, 6', 190 lbs., 45, hairy chest, moustache, greying hair, into gym, health, music, outdoors, art, personal growth, intelligent conversation, romance, mutual respect and lots more, seeks a black man in very good shape and health. Box # 2075

ISO ATTRACTIVE, IN-SHAPE, SEXY BOTTOMS who want it from a good-looking, well-hung 35 year old, 5'11", 170 lbs. dark-skinned black top. If you're good at giving it up, leave some details and some digits. Box # 1058

FOURTH MESSAGE & STILL NO SERIOUS RESPONSE. Where are those serious ones! Gay male, 25, 6 ft, 180 lbs. Blue eyes, honest, independent and fun, seeking available gay male (top). Will someone respond? West Valley. Box # 4024

WHITE BOY, 32, 5' 11", 175 LBS., muscular, lean, bubble butt, bottom, seeks 6' +, 200 lbs. +, strong, dominant BLK master for butt discipline & booty pounding. HIV-, safe sex, serious. I'm yours. Box # 4048

WANTED, ROUGHNECK NIGGAZ. We want you to fuck the shit out of us. You need to be 7 1/2 or bigger, well-built and have a good over-sexed attitude. We do not want nothin' niggaz with nothin' to offer (short dick motherfuckers with attitudes who won't get fucked). Box # 1124

IF YOU NEED A FRIEND I may be just what you're looking for. I believe that the basis for any romantic relationship is friendship. I'm 31 year old, 5' 11", 159 lbs., black and considered attractive. I have a functioning brain and varied interest. I'm sexually versatile. Race is not important. Substance is. Box # 1113

29 YR. OLD ITALIAN, VERY ATTRACTIVE, OLIVE SKIN, BROWN HAIR, SMOOTH SWIMMER'S BODY ISO romantic, attractive Afro-American man 25-35. Top/Bottom irrelevant. Whatever works for you. Fucking is important, but let's go to movies, the beach, dinners. I want a companion, not a piece of meat! Box # 1042

LET'S NUT SIMULTANEOUSLY. Quaff my sultry testicular extract as we awaken innovative passions never depicted by others. We will broadly perforate your expecting aperture. Our utensils of fervor will be enmeshed in your posterior frame tunneling ardently for a far-reaching potent interval of coitus until we all bust a nut simultaneously. If this is your forte, give us notice. Box # 1137

HOT & HORNY TOP Heavy-set SBM, 5'11", 235 lbs., 6 1/2". I am a top who enjoys going out to movies & a good meal. UB masculine, SBM, 5' 10" or above, around 190 lbs., thick or muscular. No queens, excessive obesity or non-blacks. Box # 2151

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING REAL? Healthy, masculine GBM, 6' 3" 220 lbs. and handsome. Seeks honest gay male 23-36 for friendship and possible relationship. I enjoy quiet evenings at home, movies, plays, musicals, concerts, candle light dinners and romantic walks on the beach. Please, no fems. Serious callers only. Box # 1084

GM, 26, 6', 180 LBS. Honest, intelligent and romantic. Love to enjoy life to the fullest. Seeking GM (top) for relationship. Box # 2049

WM, 48, DISTINGUISHED LOOKING, versatile professional, seeking honest, sincere, super hung, versatile, short (5'3" and under) BM for fun and possible relationship. Allen. Box # 1002

ATTRACTIVE WELL-ENDOWED BGM TOP, 24, SLIM MUSCULAR BUILD seeks very discreet, masculine men WHO LOVE TO GET FUCKED for friendship and possible relationship. Age 19-30. Box # 1015

BLACK AND WHITE TOGETHER. Good-looking Gay blond male wants to please that sexy Afro-American male—bi, straight or gay! Call me—You'll like! Box # 4055

ROMANTIC AFRICAN AMERICAN TOP. 31 year old openly gay, attractive, well-endowed, masculine dark skin African American, 5' 11", 165 lbs. Into theater, literature, candle light dinners at home and romantic lovemaking. Serious only please. Box # 4017

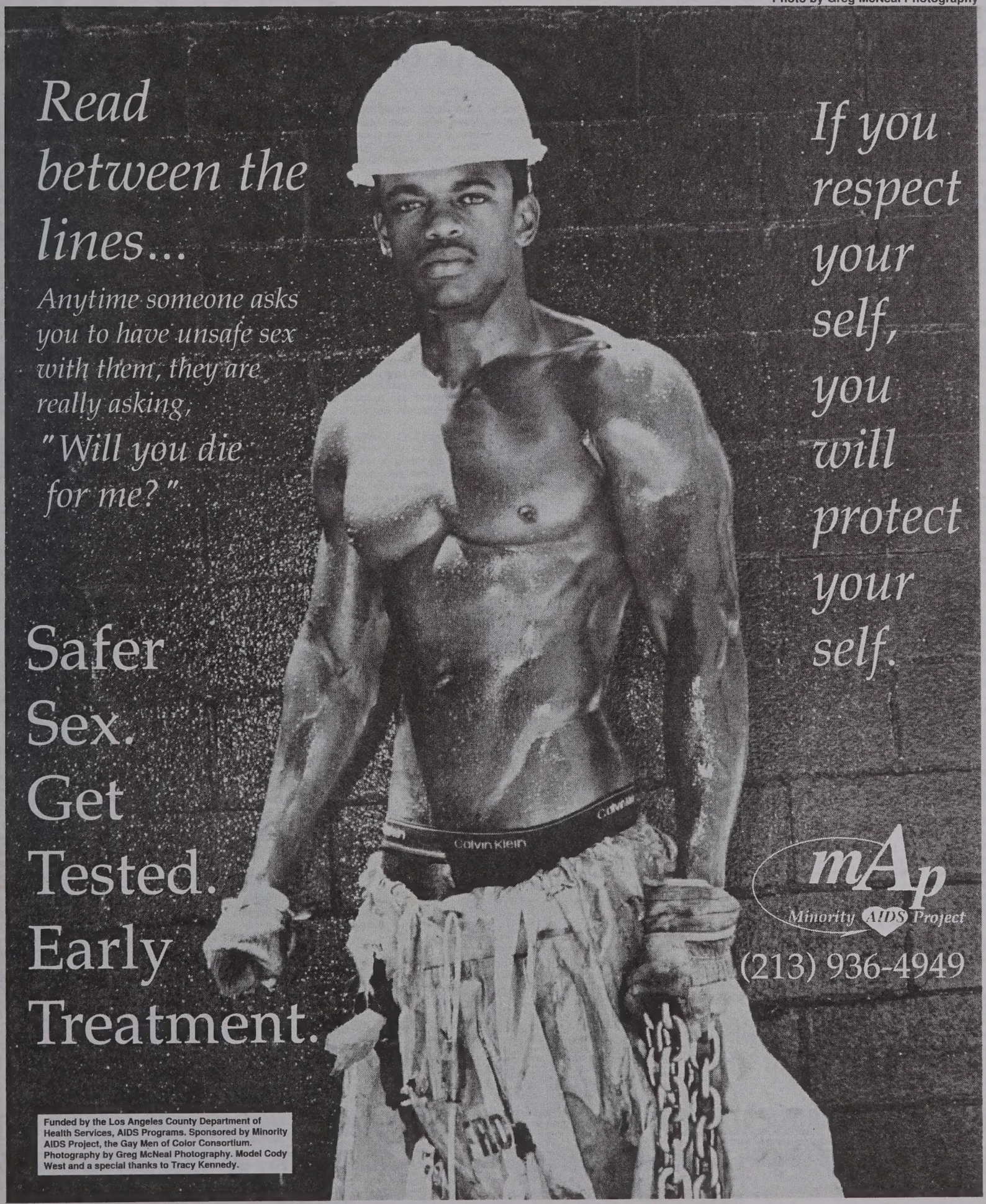
NICE LOOKING BGM WANTS TO MAKE LOVE TO A MAN WHO LOVES HIMSELF. I'm 5' 9", 150 lbs., a Malcolm beard and mustache, chocolate complexion, easy-going, self-reliant, masculine and into positive good times. You be good-looking, cool, weight proportional, butch or fem. If your attitude is negative, piss-elegant, superficial and/or pretentious, if you call your brothers niggers and your sisters, friends and acquaintances bitches and faggots, do us both a favor and don't call this proud Black gay man. But if movies make you cry, flowers turn you on and a smile makes your day, let's talk. Sweet and shy is just as good as loud and happy. It's all good. Let there be love. Box # 2032

TO RESPOND TO ADS CALL 1-900-844-4SBC (4722) / $1.45 MIN/$1.95 FIRST MIN. / 18 OR OLDER

SERVICE PROVIDED BY CONCEPT ST. JAMES, INC. / P.O. BOX 3750, L.A., CALIFORNIA 90078 / CUSTOMER SERVICE: 213-733-5661

"Will you die for me?"

Photo by Greg McNeal Photography


Read between the lines...
Anytime someone asks you to have unsafe sex with them, they are really asking, "Will you die for me?"
If you respect your self, you will protect your self.
Safer Sex. Get Tested. Early Treatment.
Calvin Klein
mAp
Minority AIDS Project
(213) 936-4949

Funded by the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, AIDS Programs. Sponsored by Minority AIDS Project, the Gay Men of Color Consortium. Photography by Greg McNeal Photography. Model Cody West and a special thanks to Tracy Kennedy.

Man meEt

TO RESPOND TO ADS CALL 1-900-844-4SBC (4722) / $1.45 MIN/$1.95 FIRST MIN. / 18 OR OLDER

SERVICE PROVIDED BY CONCEPT ST. JAMES, INC. / P.O. BOX 3750, L.A., CALIFORNIA 90078 / CUSTOMER SERVICE: 213-733-5661

MASCULINE 39 Y.O. SEEKS SIMILAR. Blk, 200 lbs., 6 Ft., moustache, ponytail, into gym, kids, love, friendship, sex, feet, film and self-knowledge. Be real, honest, masculine and open—and I could be had. HIV, white, Hispanic okay. Box # 1024

WHITE MALE, 31, BROWN HAIR, BLUE EYES looking for relationship-minded black male age 30-45. I want to meet someone who likes to read, go to movies and spend quality time at home. Tired of meeting men in bars. Will answer all. Box # 2029

NEEDED: TALL, HANDSOME, SEXY, SMOOTH, MUSCULAR AND WELL-HUNG GBM 18-35. Slide your hot Black rod up this tight white boy pussy 6', 185 lbs. Can you handle it? Play with my ass while your homeboys watch, then squirt me down. Either pleasure, you choose! Box # 4021

GBM, 26, SEEKS FATHER FIGURE. You: 35 to 40 y.o., 6 ft. or taller, muscular, bald A+, versatile. Me: 6 ft., slim, muscular. No fats. No fems. Seeking BM or HM. N2 reading, music & w8 lifting. Box # 1041

TUFF, BUFF, BLONDE JOCK—TOTAL MAN. Bench press 270 lbs., leg press 650 lbs., 17 1/2" arms, 46" chest with 2" deep cut between my pecks, totally straight acting! Blow Super huge Loads! Looking for a true Black horse—11 or more inches who thinks he's man enough and tuff enough to handle me. Talk is cheap! I haven't met a Black man big enough or Tuff enough yet who could handle me. Go for it if your man enough!!! Box # 1283

HOT AND HANDSOME BLACK MALE TOP, 29, 6' 2". I like fucking. I'm equipped to service you. Black attractive bottoms in need of good loving done the right way. Call. Be mine tonight. Let's talk. Box # 2026

NO QUEENS. BLACK MEN ONLY WITH A SENSE OF HUMOR. I'm 22 and looking for someone real, if nothing more, a friend. Give me a call. Tall, bald heads & big dicks a plus but not necessary. Someone real is. Box # 1305

HOT BLACK MALE BOTTOM 5'9", 34 y.o., 150 lbs, in search of hot masculine top who is well endowed, 18-40 something for...(+). Box # 1022

HOT WHITE SOUL MAN SEEKS HANDSOME HORSE HUNG TOP. Me: 6', 170, 8", smooth, muscular, butch, passionate, bottom beauty. UB muscular, masculine & hung huge to satisfy my hungry hole & deep throat. Equipped playroom available. Be cool. Call. Box # 1272

LOOKING FOR GOOD HEAD? 42 year old black male, 5'6", 150 lbs., passable looks, F/A; No/GR. U B black, oriental, Hispanic, No. African, Puerto Rican, Egyptian, any man of color. Over 6' tall or under 5' short & uncut a +. Cock size unimportant. U must B clean, no drugs, pros, fats or fems. My place or? Days & some evenings. Very, very discreet—UB2. U won't B sorry. L.A. area. No games, no head trips. I'M GOOD. Box # 1012

ATTRACTIVE, ROMANTIC BGM WANTS TO HOLD YOU TIGHT. I'm 5' 11", 155 lbs., and I'm looking for someone solid and able. Box # 2025

BGM, 32, LIGHT SKIN, LOOKING FOR A HOMEBOY TYPE. I been a top lately. Been feeling like I want to be on the bottom. Still, he has to be attractive and manly for a possible long term relationship. I like a man that is possessive and passionate with no games. Box # 1240

DARK SKIN, FULL BEARD, 6' 1". Looking for a Bodybuilder. You won't be disappointed. Box # 1003

BIG BLACK DICK LIKES TO FUCK. I'm a 25 yr. old dark skinned black man with 9 1/2 fat inches looking for a sweet bottom that likes it big, thick and slow. Box # 3002

27 Y.O. INTELLECTUAL GWM, 5' 11", 170 lbs., green eyes, looking to meet sincere, affectionate and emotionally available GBM for friendship. Laguna Beach area. Box # 3023

WASSUP ROUGHNECK BROTHERS? Are you very straight acting and discreet? So Am I. Let's talk. Must be straight acting and black. No fems! Box # 1064

CUTE HEAVYSET HUGGABLE & LOVEABLE TEDDY-BEAR 24. 5' 7 1/2" Bi B male, very spiritual, clean-cut & HIV-. That's a fact...ISO Bi GBM who is nice & good-looking, for possible relationship, who's not afraid of honesty & truth in this life we live. Do I have any taker's?? Well if this sounds like you & you're 5' 8" and up, spiritual minded, HIV- & no drugs at all, 24-31 but not definitive, give me a call. His peace be with you. Peace. Box # 1219

MATURE EXTRA ENDOWED BUDDY wanted by 40's BM, 6', 195, into french, videos & J/O/ Race & weight okay. Inland Empire area. Ready for long hot sessions. Box # 2118

DARK WARRIORS ONLY. Seeking a GBM dark skinned warrior. I'm a hot GBM bottom, 21, cat brown eyes, light brown skinned, 5' 5", medium build. I enjoy movies, dancing, dinners, music and collecting Teddy bears. I'm seeking a GBM top, 21-35, dark skinned a plus. If you want a new friend, call. Box # 1181

W. FRENCH MAN ISO BIG BLACK TOP. I'm a great cook (including soul), healthy and playful, 5' 5", 160 lbs., 43 y.o., into arts & culture, walks, biking, roller skates, Star Trek, computers. You are intelligent, not2hairy, black non-smoker any age, HIV+ OK. Let's be friends; you can become my Prince Charming! Box # 1239

PASSIONATE AFFECTIONATE GAY ASIAN MALE wanting to meet straight-straight acting, real dark and light-skin African Americans or anyone of African decent. Box # 2038

A BOTTOM SEEKING A TOP. Black gay male 39 years old, 6' 1", 200 lbs. I am looking for a Top 25-37, down to earth, loving, caring, romantic. Someone intelligent & understanding who loves to get down all night long. Please leave a message. Box # 3003

ATTRACTIVE HISPANIC BOTTOM, 44, medium build, with love buns, seeks well hung Black Top man with very thick 8" or more for prolong hot times on a regular basis. Make me take it in any way you can deliver it. Box # 1096

VGL WM, 30, 6', 192 LBS into very muscular, intelligent, fun, affectionate, communicative Black men. I am articulate, witty, fun, with a good sense of humor, into working out, music, movies and friends. I am a good catch and you should be too. Box # 2113

SERIOUS, AFFECTIONATE, MASCULINE, HEALTHY, PROFESSIONAL BGM 5' 10 1/2", 190 lbs. Motorcycle riding, camping, weight lifting, contact sports, movies and gardening a favorite. Seeks other BGM with similar interests between 40 and 60 for friendship and possible relationship. Box # 1076

VERY CUTE SALVADOREAN/LATINO, 5' 7", light brown eyes, curly black hair. hairy body, nice tanned color. I am stable and would like to meet Black and Latino guys (Central Americans, Caribenos) with similar qualities. Box # 2039

NICE LOOKING BM, 6' 1", 205 LBS. VERY BIG LEGS, XXXCALFS. I need BIG DICK TRADE to go deep into my pussy. Only 95% tops. Be good looking, professional, clean, nice, Black, P. Rican, Cuban, Latin. I'm manly and fem. No queens or fems, or under 9" Box # 1252

PASSIONATE, STABLE, TOGETHER WM seeking a mate. Preferably GBM. I'm 30 y.o., 5' 8", 155 lbs., attractive, sexy & a bottom. Sincere, intelligent, attractive, sexy, no games, none-scene type of individual wanted. Seek and you shall find—Box # 2020

GBM, 32, 6' 1", 160 LBS. I AM MARRIED but looking for serious minded part time love. I enjoy music, TV and long walks on the beach. You be in good shape, open minded, rough trade. Bi okay, strong willed and minded. Versatile a big plus. Must be discreet. Box # 1286

GBM, 30, 5' 7", 155 LBS., DENZEL-LOOKING CHRISTIAN in-shape who works out, enjoys listening to music and being a man and who doesn't hate women. I love sexy, cool mixed-race men, 23-30, born on the east coast who are able to go back to the hood, tight body, nice feet, sexy lips. Box # 1375

SHM (PUERTO RICAN), 21, HANDSOME, AVG. HEIGHT, MEDIUM BUILD. Short dark hair, moustache, goatee, brown skin. Seeking casual, tall, big, hairy or non hairy Hispanic homeboy type (18-48) top with a big (8 1/2+) thick dick! for companionship. Regular guy lkg 4 regular guy who's not into the scene, drugs, all this bullshit out here! I love to joke around and have fun in and out of bed. Let's do it together. Call me now! Box # 4079

HANDSOME, HOT, HORNY, ROMANTIC, SUBMISSIVE BM, 55, 5' 11", 155 lbs., HIV +, seeks a "bossy" white guy (long hair a +). Submissive has need to surrender to a patient, caring, verbal, boss into having it "his way". Open to bondage, gear, etc. with relationship possibilities. Box # 1367

MASTER SEEKS BLK TRAINEES for TT, CBT, Butt discipline, dress code, attitude adjustment, physical training, total service. You: under 32, in shape, cln shaven, thick tongue, horse hung, bull nuts, bubble butt, novice. Uncut A+. Me: Mid 40s, X-Marine, in shape, experienced. No fakes, fems, barflies, smokers, druggies, gold diggers. Box # 2131

SEXY GAM, 20'S, SMOOTH, TAN, ATHLETIC, ISO guys under 30 for friendship, fun & more...please be sincere & down 2 earth. Into R & B, running, politics & more...call me! Box # 1336

BGM, 35, MASCULINE, MUSCULAR TOP, 5'11", 170 lbs., HIV-, seeks well-endowed GBM bottoms between 35-50 for sexual friction and casual friendship. Box # 1169

WANTED: BLACK OR PUERTO RICAN BOTTOMS. Hot black top seeks hot hairy-ass bottom body builder. If you are hot, hairy, horny and a freak, leave a message. Box # 1190

DARK SKIN BGM HIV- TOP, 5' 8", 151 lbs., attractive, endowed, cut, intelligent, romantic, ISO an attractive, intelligent, in shape, HIV- bottom for romantic sex. Box # 1033

CAMPING & HIKING MAN WANTED BY GWM, 6' 1", 205 LBS., HIV-, 37: likes outdoors, hiking, hot springs, bicycling, camping. Seeking a n/s GM who is looking for a friend to do these things with. Box # 3046

BM, 50, 5' 11", 185 LBS., STR8 ACTING, SPIRITUAL, MUSCULAR; intelligent, gym-goer, into books, walks, talks, music. Seeks BM/H with similar intellect for monogamous relationship, between 45 y.o. & 55 y.o. Serious only respond. HIV-. "Yall, this ain't no sex call." Box # 2133

CARIBBEAN NATIVE: SUCCESSFUL, CUTE, FRENCH-SPEAKING, 34, 5' 9", 140 LBS. New to L.A., into cycling, swimming, travel and romance. Looking for a special, independent, masculine topman, any age, who appreciates the finer things in life. Homeboy or cholo type will be considered. Box # 1133

NEW FROM TEXAS. WOULD YOU LIKE A SUPERFREAK? Well I'm into stud black tops with big huge cocks who know what they want. Must be 25-35, top and real. I'm a 25 GWM, 6', 190 lbs. blonde, green eyes and excellent underneath. Someone who will last. Box # 1377

AFFECTIONATE, EASY-GOING, FUN TO BE WITH GAY ASIAN MALE seeks straight-acting or straight man of color for friendship and maybe much more. Box # 2090

BLACK MALE, 6' 1", 39 YEARS OLD. I'm a bottom who is looking for a well hung cock on a masculine male to work on this "hot" ass all night long. If this sounds good to you, give me a call. Box # 2089

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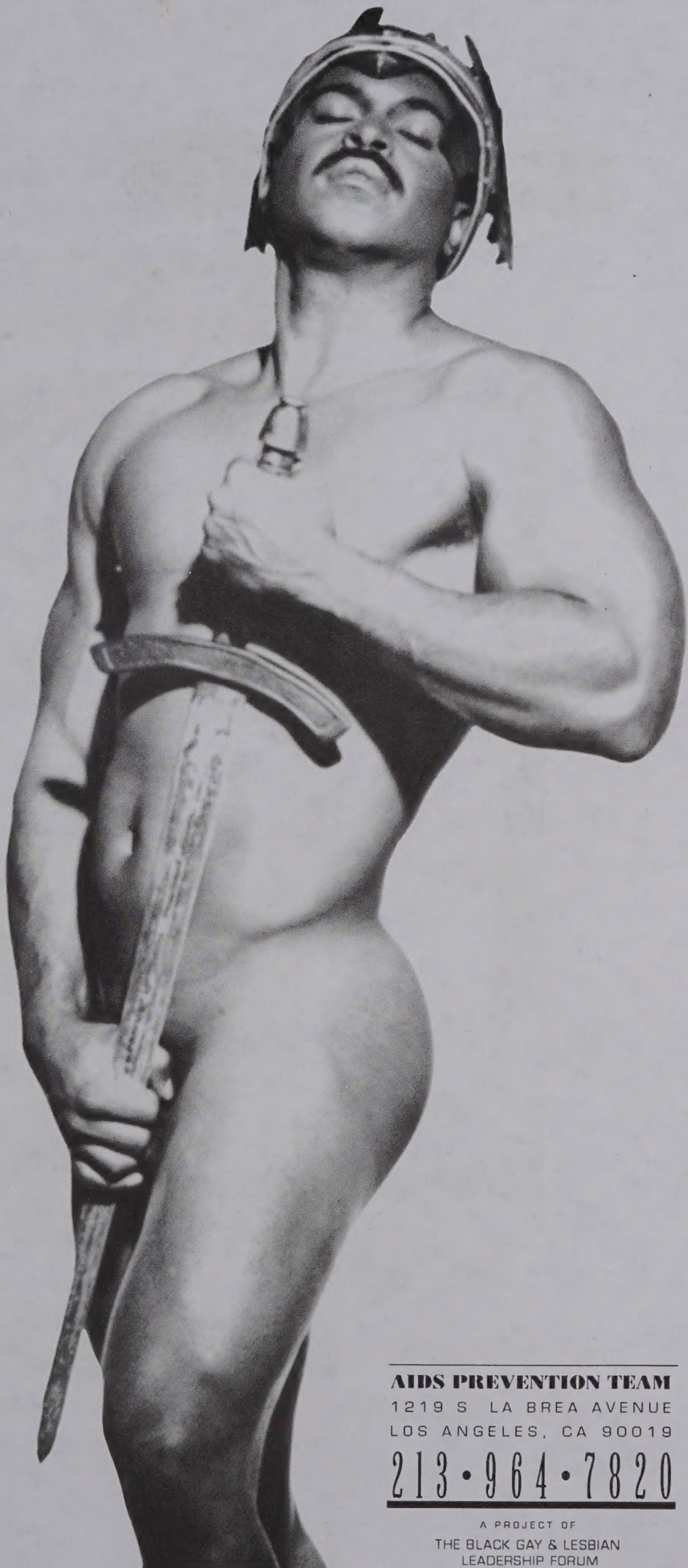

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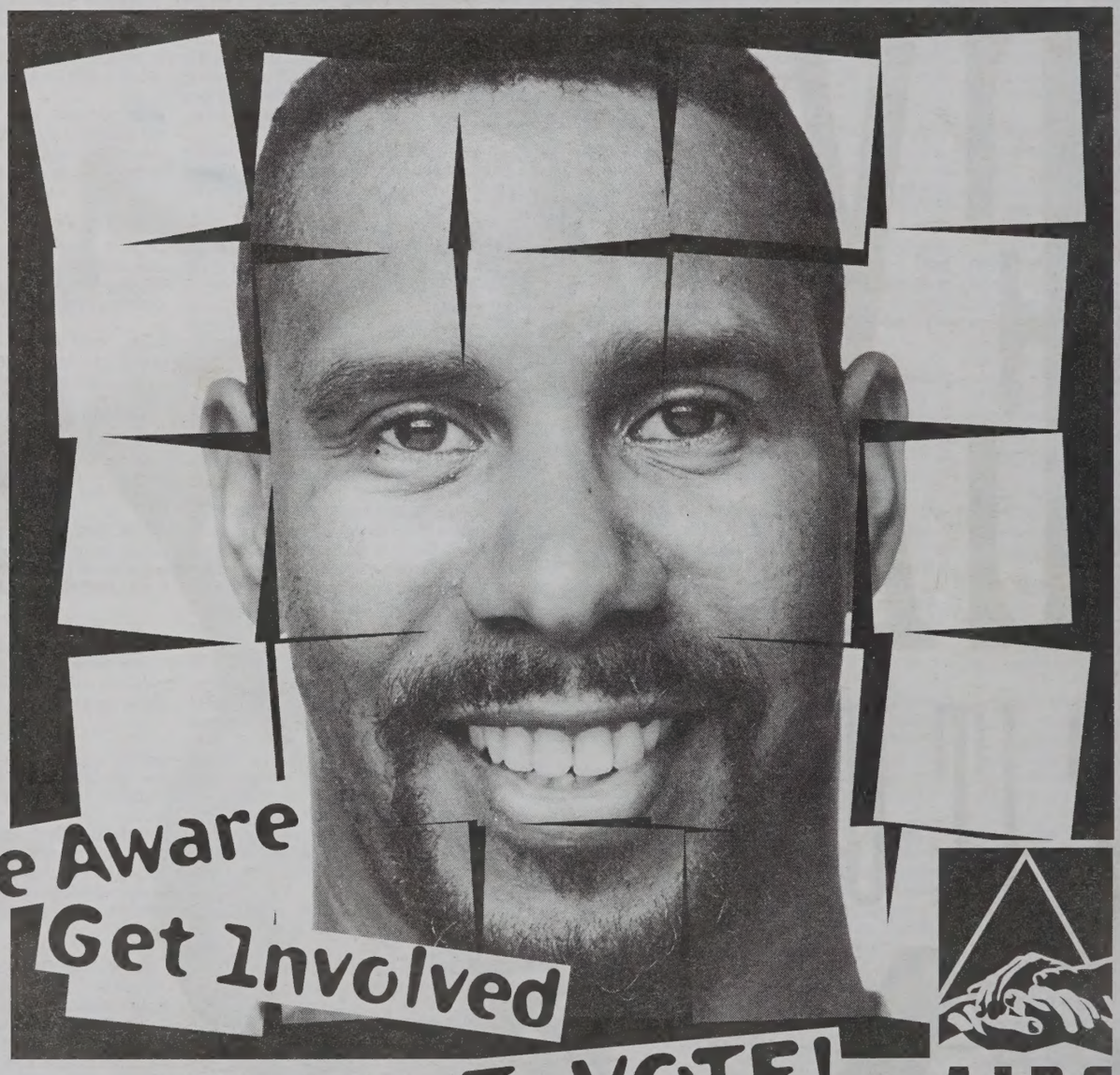

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MAY/JUNE 1996

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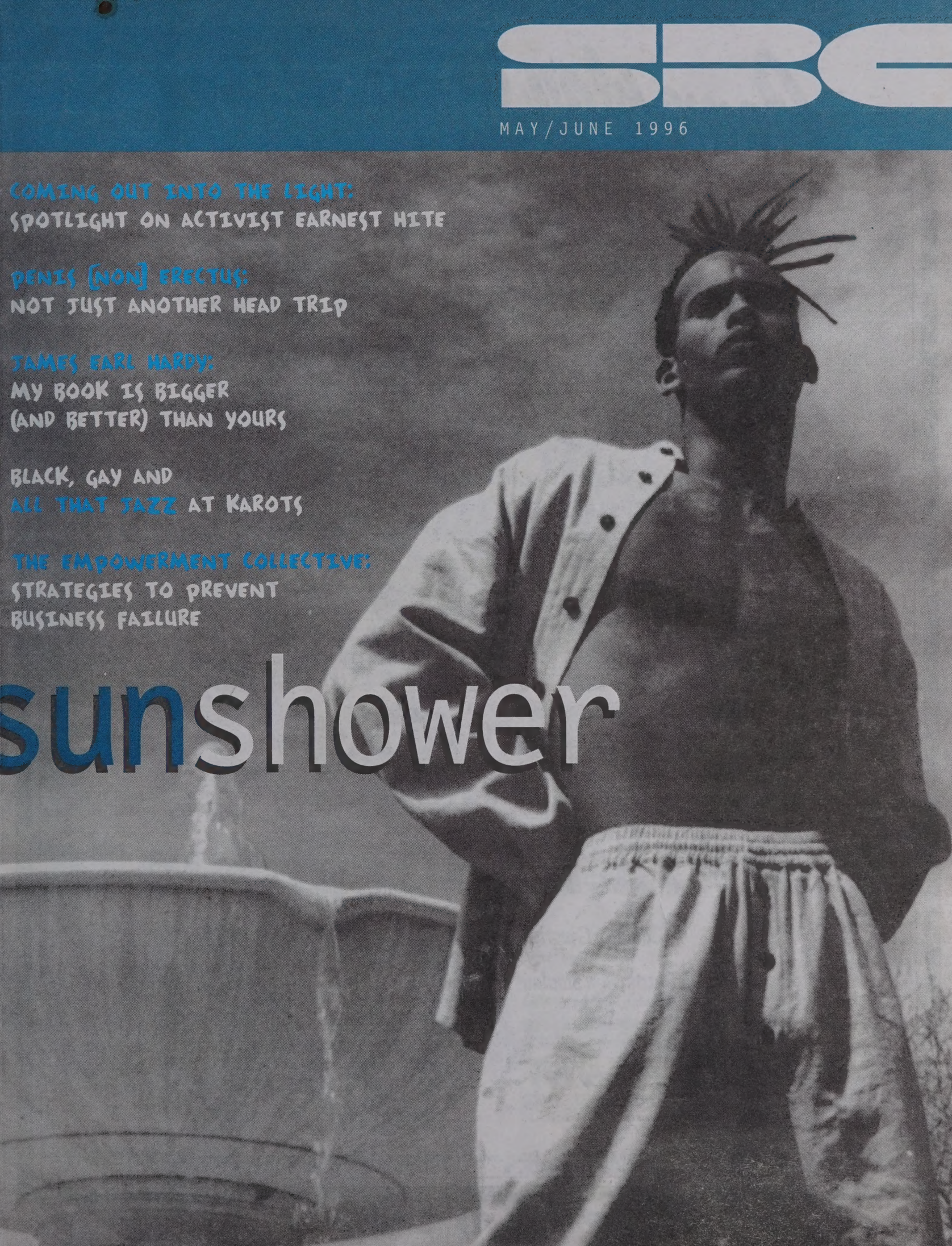
PENIS [NON] ERECTUS:
NOT JUST ANOTHER HEAD TRIP

JAMES EARL HARDY:
MY BOOK IS BIGGER
(AND BETTER) THAN YOURS

BLACK, GAY AND
ALL THAT JAZZ AT KAROTS

THE EMPOWERMENT COLLECTIVE:
STRATEGIES TO PREVENT
BUSINESS FAILURE

sunshower



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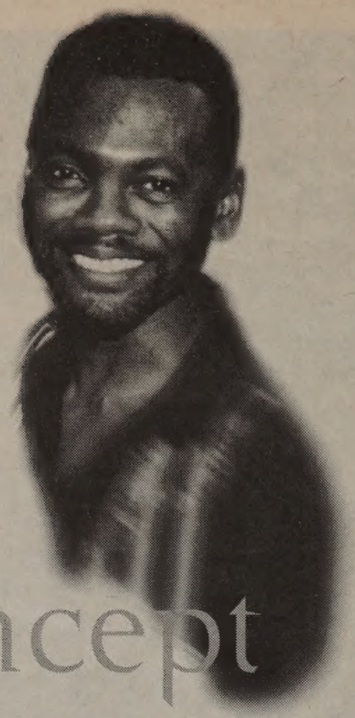


in concept

I've always considered myself a pretty descent person. I try to do right by my fellow man and contribute to the upkeep of this world we call home. Whether I am in love or in lust, consideration for my partner and his needs are automatic, as I am still proudly naive enough to believe that consideration for my needs are automatic to him.

The beauty of babies doing all those things that babies do still mesmerizes me with the awesomeness of humanity manifested at its purist state.

The wisdom of those much older continues to educate me and better me.

To me the glass is always half full. I have always believed in the basic good of imperfect me and imperfect mankind which falters at times, not because of an inherent pathology, but because of inherent imperfection. After all, even Magic doesn't hit a 3 pointer every time out--although the brotha comes pretty damn close.

I live in a community of beautiful people of all sexual and cultural natures, of all colors and accents, who understand--or maybe don't understand--my great need to and joy in the celebration of my racial, cultural and sexual being. I am a vessel of God, therefore, I am all good.

I am happy and pleased with the privilege of great friendships. My two best friends, Tina and Erik, and I are celebrating 25 years of a relationship that has withstood much and defined love more.

I have 7 wonderful biological brothers and sisters who have provided me with love and support and lots of wonderful nieces and nephews.

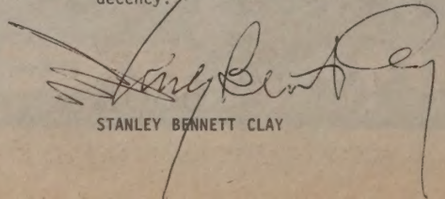
I am the product of the greatest parents that ever lived. As I'm sure many of you are. Motherhood has been a source of joy for my mother for more than 50 years. Her enthusiasm has not waned. There is no retirement in sight for her. She wouldn't have it.

My father passed 3 years ago. If there was ever an angel put here on earth, he was it. A man of great patience and gentleness and joy, who loved being a father and grandfather, who loved spoiling my mother silly, who saw my companion as a son-in-law and me, his oldest son, as a source of great pride upon whom he bragged constantly down at the post office where he worked until he retired.

Mother's Day and Father's Day are just around the corner. I was given the gift of truly great parents who set in motion a truly great life for me.

When I wake up in the morning, I look at the picture of my mother and father on the mantle. It makes me smile a little. It makes me cry a little. It makes me feel a whole lot. And it reminds me: Every day is Mother's Day. Every Day is Father's Day.

I've always considered myself a pretty descent person. I truly believe that blessings breed decency.



STANLEY BENNETT CLAY

SBC

A Bimonthly For The Africentric Homosexual

VOLUME FIVE ISSUE FOUR

MAY/JUNE 1996

STANLEY BENNETT CLAY
Publisher and Editor-In-Chief

Andrew C. Irving
Art Director

Gregory Eugene Travis
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Orlando Robinson
Fashion Editor

Ron Singleton
Chief Photographer

Gregory Victorianne
New England Correspondent

Tracy C. Gibson
Philadelphia Correspondent

Lynwoodt Jenkins
Atlanta Correspondent

Kheven Le Grone
Oakland/San Francisco Correspondent

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS:
Stanley Bennett Clay
James Earl Hardy
Lynwoodt Jenkins
William H. Jones Jr.
Ted Kirk, Ph. D.
Donald L. Perry II
Orlando Robinson
Paul M. Smith, LICSW
Gregory Eugene Travis
Chip Williford

Advertising Sales:
213.733.5661 FAX 213.733.9200

On-Line Sales:
William De Bardelaben
310.670.9340
Atlanta/Southern Regional Sales:
Chip Williford
404.244.6866

National Advertising Representative:
Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 1268 Plainfield, NJ 07060
908.232.2021 Fax: 908.232.0521

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Styling by Orlando Robinson / Model: E.L. Moore/Crew Men / Wardrobe by Stranger

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FOR THE OLYMPICS?

PLANNING TO COME TO ATLANTA
FOR THE LABOR DAY WEEKEND
BLACK GAY PRIDE CELEBRATION?

PLANNING TO COME TO ATLANTA
TO JUST COOL OUT?

THEN AVOID THE STUFFINESS OF A HOTEL

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Letters

CHECKS AND BALANCES IN BLACK AND WHITE

In reference to the letter written by Reverend David A. Kurtz in the February (Vol. 5 Issue 2) of SBC:

First of all, there is no sensitivity to the truth. To censor in order to spare feelings is sparing the villain another day to continue his evil ways.

As for whites suffering in order that blacks have rights, let us set the record straight. If a majority of whites had good intentions then there would've never been slavery, nor would there have ever been a NEED TO CREATE CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS. Civil rights laws were created not because white America became so overwhelmed by an attack of consciousness, but, rather, to maintain stability in the country. How many all-white marches have we seen protesting against white racism?

Bob Stocks
San Francisco, California

WHAT ABOUT US YOUNG AFRICENTRIC HOMOSEXUALS?

As a young (21) black male, I find your magazine very informative as well as important to the black gay and lesbian community. The excellent articles and absolutely flawless photos gag me every time. But there is one problem. I haven't seen anything about gay black youth. We all know that many gay teens frequent parks and clubs and make up a significant number in the gay community, yet we go ignored and unheard.

As a homosexual of six years--I came out at 15--I know what it was like to be called "young, dumb and full of cum", which I was. As a teen with very low self-esteem and no one to explain what was going on with me, I stumbled into many "crude spots", usually bathrooms and alleys filled with aged white men. It was not uncommon for me to find myself in 1984, at age 13, in the arms of some unattractive, fat, white man thinking that that was all the gay life had to offer. It was not until 1988 that there were black men in my life.

As with many teens today, they are misled, or not led at all into knowing who or what they are. Going to church on Sunday, trying to get 'rid' of this terrible itch that needs to be scratched--the terrible thirst that needs to be quenched, this feeling that comes so naturally that it causes pain and guilt when satisfied. "Why am I like this?" many ask but no one's there to answer. Teens have been ignored too long, and gay teens ignored completely.

Please remember the gay youth. They're our gay future.

Johndell Hill
Oakland, California

REGARDING THE NATIONAL BLACK GAY AND LESBIAN LEADERSHIP FORUM AND WHITE SUPREMACY IN BLACK FACE

I have just read the main articles in the current issue (March/April '96) and am just ecstatic! At long last someone other than Cleo Manago has said what many of us have been thinking for years.

While I know your primary focus is the feature, I am proud that you took a position in your half of The Various Colors & Sexualities of White Supremacy. As a member of the African American Gay (I don't mind the term, as I know who I am - Black first and foremost) Press, I have been marginalized and ignored many times by the very organization you wrote about, and some of its board members.

I have tried hard to show our community in a positive light, and have consistently tried to work with the organization, however, it is sadly apparent that "we" are not welcomed there. I have come to the realization that real black people who are a part of the real black community get nowhere with this group.

This emotional debate must and should continue in our community, until consciousness is raised to what's really going on. We as a people must learn to embrace one another more often and recognize our own beauty first, then we will be in a respectable position when we love outside. I may be naive, but I still have hope that one day they will come around.

Ron Singleton
Los Angeles, California

The series of articles in the March/April issue of your magazine about white supremacy appears to overlook one point. A thinking which may yet be the most pernicious legacy from the segregationist inventors of white supremacy. Willingly or not, it still seems to somewhat influence some articles in that issue: the idea that people of different skin color and culture should not have contact. For fear of some undefined contamination, or is it?

I was born from a Hispanic mother in a country (France) where the population took a heavy toll under the palm of demented blond & blue-eyed anti-gay supremacist nazis. Such origins give deep at heart more than contempt for any racism, sexism, and other forms of prejudice. Nothing offends me more than bigotry. It seems to me a great injustice to blame BWMT (Black and White Men Together), or people tolerant enough to entertain color blind relations and friendships, for all dis-comfort in the African-American community.

Any culture, would it be Renaissance or rather seasoned, cannot afford the luxury of self-isolation. Worse, when any individual who is quoted as going "out of his race" for any kind of association or residence, is immediately blamed or called names, it becomes simple and plain terrorism. Gays of all origins know what suffering from prejudice means, often from their own family. Why, then, perpetuate such bullying?

There must be some place in the gay community for respectful contacts between people of different origins. James Baldwin, among others, testified to the nurturing and beneficial cultural effects of such positive exchanges. If not, then, the racist theories of the past will unfortunately have won. Forgive me, but where I come from, we believe there is only one race: the human race.

Paix, Peace, Salamalekum, brothers.

Michael Bujardet
Inglewood, California

Thank you for your commentary in the March/April issue of SBC. Your critique of the Forum shows exactly why the Forum cannot represent every black lesbian or gay man. No single organization could represent the diversity of a community whose members range from Black and White Men Together (BWMT) to "Africentric homosexuals" who despise BWMT.

In fact, the title of your article, "The Forum Is...The Forum Ain't," appropriately underscores the point behind Marlon Riggs' award-winning film, "Black Is...Black Ain't." Riggs demonstrated convincingly the senselessness of labeling who is and ain't black. Many Africentric heterosexuals already view black same-gender-loving men and women with disdain and suspicion. Therefore, black lesbians and gay men must be careful not to oppress one another with the same tools of oppression used against us.

You raise many important concerns, directly and indirectly, about the history and future of the Forum. For example, why has BWMT been so involved in its development? How should we overcome class-based divisions in our community? How should Forum board members interact with the community?

Despite the importance of raising these issues, your statement that the Forum has "A complete lack of knowledge and concern of and for the black homosexual community" seems too strong.

I assume we have failed to communicate the ongoing work of the Forum and the changes that have been made recently. I want you to know that the entire Forum staff is very involved in the black community, serving clients from South Central Los Angeles and working in health facilities, churches, nightclubs and community organizations in Watts, Compton and elsewhere in predominantly black communities.

In the 7 months since the Forum hired me as its first Executive Director, we have begun to take many new strides on the national scene as well. We have held town meetings with members of the black lesbian and gay communities in half a dozen cities across the country. We led an historic black openly gay and lesbian contingent in the Million Man March. We have explored new methods to communicate to our members, including our first national newsletter and a new Internet web site. We are also building new alliances with the Congressional Black Caucus and other black organizations.

I am proud of the many changes we have made in my short time with the Forum, but, as you point out, there is much more work to be done. We need to do a better job of listening to and communicating with the many diverse elements of our community. We also need to push continually for greater political, social, cultural, ideological, economic, gender and regional diversity on our board of directors and on our staff.

The Forum today is an organization under reconstruction. Apparently, we have not clearly communicated this limited, transitional role of the interim board of directors--to build the infrastructure of a healthy, financially sound, efficient organization, and turn it over to a new permanent board in February 1997.

Much of the changes that needs to take place by February 1997 is internal. Too many black organizations have failed in the past because they tried to save the world without first saving themselves. We are determined not to make that mistake with the Forum. We have established new fiscal and management policies that have already improved the efficiency of the organization, and we are laying the groundwork to support future growth.

Finally, we cannot today, next week, or next year reach the black lesbian and gay community without the financial resources to sustain our activities. Fundraising, therefore, is a primary charge of the executive director and the interim board of directors.

As you know, I have been a monthly columnist for Washington, D.C.'s only black gay publication, The Malebox!. As a member of the black lesbian and gay press, I value the important contributions of SBC and other similar publications. Many of the changes you want for the Forum, I want also. Many of us are already working hard to make these changes, but they will not happen overnight. That's why we value your support in this critical period of transition.

Sincerely,
Keith O. Boykin
Executive Director
National Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Forum
Washington D.C.

We gladly welcome your comments and letters. When writing or faxing please include your telephone number which will not be printed, but is needed for verification only. It is not the policy of SBC to print unverifiable, unsigned or anonymous letters. Some letters may be edited for the purpose of space and/or clarity. Mail your letters to The Editor/ SBC magazine/ 1155 4th Avenue/ Los Angeles, California 90019. Or Fax your letter to 213.733.9200.

GREG'S ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE WEEKEND - WASHINGTON, DC / MAY 24 - 27

(c) g.hutchings, 4/96

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL GREG HUTCHINGS - 202.543.7903

THE OFFICIAL BLACK PRIDE HOTEL IS RADISSON BARCELO, 2121 P ST., NW;
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FRIDAY, MAY 24

BLACK PRIDE KICKOFF RECEPTION
6 PM - 9 PM $25
Contact: 202.722.4780

MALE BONDING AFFAIR
The Edge
56 L Street $10
8 PM - UNTIL
Contact: 202.610.EDGE

PUZZLES, A DANCE PRODUCTION
Dance Place
3225 8th St. NE
8 PM $10
Contact: Thomas 202.544.0440

BLACK GAY AND LESBIAN LEADERSHIP
FORUM FUNDRAISER
8 PM - MIDNITE
Contact: 202.736.3729

GET MET PARTY I
Out of the Blue
915 U St. NW
(U St - Cardozo Metro)
Hosted by Robyn Holden & Greg Hutchings
9 PM - UNTIL $ 6
Contact: 202.543.7903

WELCOME TO D.C. PARTY
Circle Bar
1629 Connecticut Ave. NW (Dupont Circle Metro)
Hosted by Sophisticated Ladies
& KaYo Productions
10 PM - 4 AM $8
Free Giveaways
Contact: 202.788.1866

PRIDE KICKOFF PARTY
Diversite
1526 14th St. NW
Hosted by Women in the Life
10 PM - 3 AM
Contact: 202.667.8078

SATURDAY, MAY 25

CULTURAL ARTS FESTIVAL
10 AM - 5 PM $10
Contact: 202.722.4780

"FAMILY REUNION" 4TH ANNUAL
JAZZ BRUNCH
Georgia Cafe
2225 Georgia Ave.
12 PM - 4 PM $9.95, $3 addt'l. for unlimited champagne
Hosted by Greg Hutchings
Contact: 202.543.7903

WET AFTERNOON (Navy Yard Metro)
WET 56 L St. SW
Exotic Female Dancers in the Showers
3 PM - 7 PM $10
Hosted by Sophisticated Ladies
Contact: 202.788.1866

RECEPTION BY ANTHONY L. MARSHALL, ESQ.
By Invitation Only
4 PM - 9 PM
Call for invite: 202.488.8666

THE BROTHERHOOD RECEPTION
(For HIV Positive Brothers Only)
819 L St. SE
3 PM - 6 PM Free
Contact: 202.842.1337

THE WEEKEND SPECIAL -
6TH ANNUAL COOKOUT
3 PM - UNTIL $2
Hosted by Robert DeLoatch & Friends
Contact: 202.396.8580

GOSPEL CONCERT
Featuring Julia Nixon
Hine Jr. High School
8th & Pennsylvania Ave. SE (Eastern Market Metro)
Hosted by Inner Light Fellowship Church
7 PM - 10 PM $10
Contact: 202.554.6588

PUZZLES, A DANCE PRODUCTION
Dance Place
3225 8th St. NE
8 PM $10
Contact: Thomas 202.544.0440

PRIDE DANCE PARTY
Circle Underground
1629 Connecticut Ave. NW (Dupont Circle Metro)
Hosted by Friends for Friends
10 PM - 4 AM $10 $7 w/WET coupon
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BLACK PRIDE BOAT RIDE
Spirit of Washington, Waterfront
11 PM - 2:30 AM
$40 ($25 For First 250 Tkts)
Contact: 202.722.4780

MIDNIGHT CRUISE ON THE ODYSSEY
Gangplank Marina, 600 Water St. SW
Hosted by the D.C. Gents
MIDNITE - 2:30 AM $40
Contact: 301.459.7377

MALE BONDING AFFAIR, NITE II
The Edge
56 L Street $10
8 PM - UNTIL
Contact: 202.610.EDGE

SUNDAY, MAY 26

BLACK PRIDE PRAYER BREAKFAST
9 AM - 11 AM
Contact: 202.722.4780

UNITY SPIRITUAL CELEBRATION
Hine Jr. High School Auditorium
8th & Pennsylvania Ave. SE (Eastern Market Metro)
12 NOON Free
Contact: 202.554.6588

MUNCH, CRUNCH & BRUNCH
Julio's Restaurant (deck)
16th & U st. NW
Hosted by Robert Deloatch & Stu Reynolds
11 AM - 2 PM First 50 People Free
Contact: 202.396.8580

"BLACK PRIDE OUTDOOR FESTIVAL"
BANNEKER FIELD
12 NOON - 8 PM $5

AFTER PARTY T-DANCE
Georgia Cafe
2225 Georgia Ave. NW
NYC's DJ Cameron Spinning Classics & House Music
Hosted by KaYo Productions
5 PM - 11 PM $6
Contact: 202.399.7459

A SPRING AFFAIR
Warner Atrium
12th & E St. NW
Hosted by the Associates
5 PM - 9 PM $40
contacts: Chris Bates 202.722.7718
Carl Boykin 301.203.9698

GET MET PARTY II
Out of the Blue
915 U St. NW (U St - Cardozo Metro)
Hosted by Robyn Holden & Greg Hutchings
9 PM - UNTIL $ 6
Contact: 202.543.7903

BASIC BLACK IV (THE ALTERNATIVE)
THE EDGE
56 L St. SW
8 PM - UNTIL $10
Contact: 202.610.EDGE

AFTER PRIDE PARTY
Hung Jury
1819 H St. NW
Hosted by Sophisticated Ladies
DJ Smooth; Special Entertainers
9 PM - 3 AM $7
Contact: 202.788.1866

AFTER PRIDE PARTY
Babylon Night Club (next to Fifth Column)
911 F St. NW
Hosted by Women in the Life
3 dance floors, 3 DJ's, 4 bars
10 PM - 3 AM
Contact: 202.667.8078

MONDAY, MAY 27

ANNUAL LARRY SPIVEY PICNIC IN THE PARK
Rock Creek Park, Lot 23 & 24
10 am - SUNSET Free admission
Contact: 202.543.7903

THE EXOTIC DANCER SHOW AND DANCE
THE EDGE
56 L St. SW
8 PM - UNTIL $7
Contact: 202.610.EDGE

Listen up, L.A.!

ON SATURDAY, JULY 6, 1996, OVER 7,000 AFRICENTRIC HOMOSEXUALS AND THEIR FRIENDS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY WILL BE HANGIN' OUT AT THE 8TH ANNUAL ATB BEACH PARTY HERE AT MALIBU.

DURING THE REST OF THE 4-DAY 4TH OF JULY WEEKEND THEY'LL WANT SOMETHING ELSE TO DO.

AND IT'S UP TO YOU TO TELL THEM WHERE TO GO!

GOT A CLUB? GIVING A PARTY? HOLDING A FUNDRAISER? HOSTING A RECEPTION? THROWING A MIXER? CONCERT? SEMINAR? WORKSHOP? SINGLES SET? DRAG SHOW? BRUNCH? DINNER? PICNIC? BAR-B-Q? BOAT RIDE? STAGE PLAY? THEATER PARTY? POLITICAL POW-WOW? CHURCH SERVICE? FILM SCREENING? STRIP SHOW? BOOK SIGNING? FIELD TRIP?

OUR BROTHERS AND SISTER WANNA GO
SO COME ON, L.A., AND LET 'EM KNOW

FOR ONLY $25 WE WILL LIST YOUR EVENT IN OUR SPECIAL
L.A. BLACK GAY PRIDE/MALIBU BEACH PARTY SECTION OF OUR JULY/AUGUST ISSUE OF SBC.

IT HITS L.A. STREETS JUNE 21ST AND SHIPPED
THROUGHOUT THE REST OF THE COUNTRY AND CANADA JUNE 24TH.

IT'S JUST THIS EASY!

ON A SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER CLEARLY PRINT OR TYPE OUT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

DATE OF YOUR EVENT*
NAME OF YOUR EVENT
VENUE NAME WHERE EVENT WILL BE HELD
VENUE ADDRESS
HOURS OF EVENT AND ADMISSION COST (IF ANY)
EVENT HOST(S)
CONTACT PERSON AND/OR PHONE NUMBER

Mail it, along with your check or money order for $25 to:
SBC/1155 4TH AVENUE/ LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90019.

Listings must be received no later than June 15th. Payment must accompany all orders.

GET YOUR PIECE OF THE PARTY
AND
LET OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY KNOW

THIS IS HOW WE DO IT!

*Events will be listed chronologically for the following dates only: Wednesday July 3rd, Thursday July 4th, Friday July 5th, Saturday July 6th and Sunday July 6th.

411

SCHOLARSHIP FOR CHILDREN OF LESBIAN AND GAY PARENTS

Washington D.C.--For the third year, the Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International (GLPCI) and Children of Lesbian and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE) will be awarding scholarship money to further the education of deserving children of lesbian or gay parents. In 1996, the total scholarship pool will total at least $1,000.

Formerly known as the GLPCI-COLAGE Scholarship Fund, the Fund was recently renamed as the "Lee Dubin Memorial Scholarship Fund" in loving memory of a long-time member and former Treasurer of GLPCI, who died suddenly in 1995.

"We hope this scholarship program will continue to grow over time," says GLPCI's Executive Director Tim Fisher. "And of course, your contributions to the fund are always welcome." All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Applicants must have at least one lesbian, gay or bisexual parent and be enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited post-secondary institution. The scholarship recipients will be announced on July 6, 1996 at GLPCI's 17th Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Applicants for the 1996 Lee Dubin Memorial Scholarship are available now by writing to GLPCI at P.O. Box 50360, Washington D.C. 20091; or fax 201.783.6204. The deadline for applications is May 15, 1996.

CECE PENISTON, EVELYN CHAMPAGNE KING, DEBORAH HARRY AND NEWT'S SISTER CANDACE WILL PARTICIPATE IN 13TH ANNUAL LONG BEACH LESBIAN/GAY PRIDE PARADE AND FESTIVAL

Long Beach, California--Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Pride, Inc. is proud to announce their 13th annual Gay Pride festival and parade on May 18 & 19, 1996. The fourth largest festival and parade in the nation will once again be held at the beautiful ocean front location of Shoreline Aquatic Park in Long Beach. With the palm trees blowing in the wind, warm weather, hot bodies and cool drinks, and the Queen Mary as the backdrop, an estimated 50,000 people will be enjoying this year's event.

Three separate stages will be bursting their borders with top entertainment. On Saturday the main stage will be jamming with CeCe Peniston performing her hit "Finally It Happened To Me" from the film "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert", as well as her newly released CD "Thought 'Ya Knew". Sunday's headline will be the one and only disco Diva Evelyn Champagne King. In addition, a huge disco dance floor, pounding out a mix of today's most popular dance tunes, will be provided, as well as a Country Western stage.

When you need a break from the action you can visit the Art Fest area where local artist will be displaying their work.

Need to spend some quality time with your children? Take them to the Children's Garden where you and they can enjoy the many activities being offered.

For its thirteenth year, the Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade is coming...to Broadway. On Sunday, May 19th at 11 AM, the predominantly gay and lesbian business street will host this year's route. It will start at Temple Avenue, run along Broadway Street and end at Alamitos Avenue. Shuttle service will be available to the festival site. The Grand Marshall, Candace Gingrich, will lead this year's procession. Candace, a long time advocate for women's issues, became involved in the lesbian and gay equal rights movement after her brother, Newt Gingrich, was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives. She, along with the Community Grand Marshals, Connie Hamilton and Norm Reed, will lead this year's Pride parade.

The festivities continue at the official after party being held at the Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center. Conveniently located on Ocean Boulevard and Pine Avenue, just blocks from the festival site. Starting at 10 PM there will be plenty of room to dance with hot female and male GoGo dancers and get down to the sounds of Deborah Harry, formerly with the popular group Blondie. Advance tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster 213.480.3232, or call 310.434.7384 for further information.

Tickets to the festival at Shoreline Aquatic Park are only $12. Festival hours are 11 AM to 10 PM. You may also take advantage of the "no waiting" express festival entrance for both Saturday and Sunday.

Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Pride, Inc. is a non-profit organization staffed by a year-round volunteer board. In the thirteen years of operation the organization has donated over one million dollars in grants to various local organizations.

For more information call 310.987.9191.

DJ FRANKIE KNUCKLES TO BE FEATURED & HONORED MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Los Angeles, California--Virgin recording artist, DJ Frankie Knuckles, will be honored and will perform during Temple Production's second annual two day party to be held May 25th and 26th, Memorial Day Weekend. Presented as HEROES II by Manny X and Eddie X, the event serves as an opportunity to pay tribute to heroes in the community who have created positive role models for our youth and the world.

Few figures in the contemporary music have influenced their respective fields the way Frankie Knuckles has revolutionized dance music throughout the world. The legendary DJ who helped invent house music in the late 1970s has gone on to become one of the world's most sought after remixers during this past decade, crafting hit tracks for dozens of artists.

Mr. Knuckle's performance takes place on Saturday, May 25th at The Temple, located at the Hollywood Colonnade, 6840 Hollywood Blvd., 10 PM to 4 AM. Entrance and parking are through the rear.

Sunday's festivities at the El Rey Theater, 5515 Wilshire Blvd., in Los Angeles, feature positive DJ Eddie X spinning the turntables relentlessly. In honor of Frankie, who will be on hand to receive the tribute, an invigorating performance will be made by Wreck the Room, accompanied by Mr. Knuckles' music.

To RSVP or for more information, please call 213.650.3038.

NO, TERRY, E. LYNN DIDN'T SAY THAT!

Los Angeles, California--Due to a production faux pas, a statement made by publisher Stanley Bennett Clay ("As a black man I found 'Waiting To Exhale' hard to get through. In fact, it's only one of a couple of books that I've read and did not complete") during his interview with noted novelist E. Lynn Harris (SBC Volume 5 Issue 3) was inadvertently attributed to Mr. Harris.

Because of the well known mutual admiration and support shared by Terry MacMillan and E. Lynn Harris, we here at SBC sincerely and enthusiastically apologize to Mr. Harris for wrongly attributing the above statement to him and for causing any embarrassment for two of African America's most highly regarded writers.

ATLANTA'S FIRST BLACK GAY PRIDE CELEBRATION SET FOR LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Atlanta, Georgia--In the spirit of the many Black Pride celebrations occurring throughout the year in such Black gay strongholds as Washington D.C., Detroit, Oakland, Chicago and Los Angeles, Atlanta, host city to this year's Summer Olympics, will finally hold it's first. "In The Life Atlanta 1996" will be observed throughout the Labor Day weekend from Thursday, August 29th through Sunday, September 1st. The theme for the first "In The Life Atlanta" is simply "Pride Is Power!" There will be a variety of activities offered including a Reception Party, an Arts, History & Cultural Showcase, Sunday Brunch and various roundtable discussions.

The name "In The Life Atlanta" was derived from a familiar phrase used by Blacks to denote gays and lesbians during the Harlem Renaissance era.

"Our stated theme, Pride Is Power, underscores the values of individual self-love and communal unity among our people," said celebration spokesperson Craig Washington, "In The Life Atlanta 1996 will celebrate the rich history and culture of gays and lesbians of African descent. This celebration promises to educate, empower and entertain the large influx of visitors and residents alike."

In The Life Atlanta 1996, which will be coordinated by a coalition of activist, artists and other volunteers, is calling upon Black gay and lesbian organizations throughout the country to spread the word so as to ensure the success of this inaugural event.

For more information about "In The Life Atlanta 1996", please call 404.872.6410.

GAY PHYSICIANS CLASSIFY MALE/MALE ORAL SEX AS "LOW RISK"

San Francisco, California--The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, an organization of 1,800 physicians and medical students in all 50 states and 11 countries, declared that unprotected male/male oral sex should now be classified as a low-risk activity for HIV.

Its position statement, supported by 36 scientific references, acknowledges that a few documented cases of HIV transmission through oral sex have been reported. Nonetheless, notes the statement, "most studies have not found a statistically identifiable risk," and thus prevention efforts should focus explicitly on unprotected anal intercourse.

Failure to focus on anal intercourse is dangerous, warns the group: "Education that equivocates about the type of sex being discussed is confusing and potentially harmful because it implies that oral sex is equivalent in risk to anal sex," it counsels.

"We recognize that our statement will be controversial, but we believe there is a public health imperative to advocate this approach for the overall health of sexually active gay men," said GLMA Executive Director Benjamin Schatz. "The confusion and mixed messages surrounding oral sex are harming our efforts to encourage gay men to make rational choices about truly risky behavior. We hope that preventative programs that currently characterize male/male oral sex as 'high risk' or 'somewhat risky' will revise their materials accordingly."

"Prevention education must consistently acknowledge the essential importance of sexual intimacy for gay men," notes GLMA Policy Committee Chair Alvin Novick, MD, a biology professor at Yale University. "Rather than attempting to impose an unrealistic zero-risk standard on all people, our prevention efforts should focus on reducing risk overall by helping each individual learn how to maximize fulfillment and minimize risk."

The GLMA statement notes that avoiding ejaculation in the mouth or using condoms can further reduce the low risk of oral-genital sex, but cautions against widely counseling condom use for oral sex. "Pushing condom usage for oral sex may actually be counterproductive in some cases," warns Novick. "It may make some people feel that they have so few options that they don't want to use condoms, period. As a community we need to focus on unprotected anal intercourse and let each individual make an educated choice about oral sex.

The GLMA statement was prepared only after an exhaustive review of the medical literature and of studies of gay male sexual behavior. It calls for further research on the risks of oral sex, particularly in context in which risks may be higher: when there is significant mouth pathology, the presence of STD's, the use of pain-masking drugs, or concentrated episodes of repeated or traumatic sex. "Under special circumstances condom use should be recommended to lower risk," the group advises.

GLMA, founded in 1981 as the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights, is a national organization of lesbian, gay and bisexual physicians, medical students and their supporters. It works to maximize the quality of health services for lesbian, gay and bisexual people, to promote full civil rights, and to foster a professional climate in which its members can achieve their full potential.

THE EMPOWERMENT COLLECTIVE

WHY ENTREPRENEURS FAIL: THE IMPORTANCE OF STRATEGY

by Donald L. Perry II, MBA
Managing General Partner, Pine Cobble Partners*

Pine Cobble has made a specialty of financing entrepreneurial businesses. As part of our initial due diligence when considering a new client relationship, we try to asses whether our prospective customer is going to fall into one of two categories: "Winners" or "Challenges". Winners are defined as clients who successfully grow into strong, financially sound firms and maintain a successful trajectory over time. Every customer of Pine Cobble strives to be a Winner.

Challenges, however, are more often than not the norm for our customer base. Challenges are clients that have some structural flaws or organizational blemishes that prevent the firm from attaining the success it seeks. With hard work and persistence, many clients that are Challenges do in fact go on to become Winners.

But not every client is successful at making the transition. And it is these clients that are the subject of this article.

Why Companies Fail

According to the old, well-established adage, companies fail from lack of capital to finance their growth. Certainly, the anecdotal evidence seems to support the lack of capital as a prime contributor to company failure. A quick perusal of Bankruptcy Filings show clearly that firms declaring Chapter 11 (or 7), whether voluntary or involuntary, all seem to have an excess of liabilities over assets, indicating that they owe more money to creditors than they have cash in the bank or assets in the company.

But focusing on the lack of capital as the causitive factor in a company's failure is analogous to saying that an iceberg sank the Titanic. In reality, the lack of capital, just as in the case of the iceberg, is merely the superficial and most visible manifestation of much more ingrained problems and flaws that are really responsible for the tragedy of a corporate failure. In the case of the Titanic, a failure of leadership by her senior officers was responsible for her sinking.

Lack of Strategic Focus

Based on our experience, we believe that the single greatest reason entrepreneurial ventures fail is that they lack a clear, concise, well-articulated strategic objective which gives rise to the firm's reason for existing in the first place.

For example, we are working with a client in the very technical field of geographic information systems (GIS) design and imaging. The client has established itself as the West Coast reseller of computer hardware and software for a major GIS component vendor. In addition, the client has been designated the preferred provider of back-up service and technical support for small accounts by a leading multinational GIS systems company. Lastly, the entrepreneur who founded the client company brings many years of experience in and contacts with major users of GIS systems.

With all of these strong cards in its hands, the client is nonetheless on the verge of failure for one very simple, but critical, reason: The client doesn't know what business it is in. Selling computer hardware and software, no matter how specialized, is a totally different strategic thrust than selling system designs and consulting services. The dynamics of the two businesses are distinctly different and place different demands on the firm' staffing needs, organizational design, pricing structure, marketing pitch, et al.

We have noticed that the founder is much more comfortable operating on a project basis, which is more in keeping with his personal work experience and is also more in line with what a consulting-oriented firm does. The founder is not very good at trying to be a salesman of hardware and software, which also have lower profit margins than the higher value-added consulting services.

Our client is like the proverbial hermit who, after many years alone in the wilderness, finally makes his way into town and finds himself in the local bakery. The man starves to death because he could not make up his mind what to eat first when confronted with the bounty of food in front of him.

Wrongly Applying a Good Strategy

Even with a well-articulated and concise strategic vision, a company can still fall if that vision is wrongly applied.

We have a client in the landscape design and maintenance business. The company came to us because they were growing very rapidly and needed working capital to sustain their growth. Revenues had nearly doubled and they were bidding on several large new projects. Several months into the relationship, the client began to experience severe difficulties paying its bills. Despite a steadily increasing volume of new business, the client was unable to meet payroll and cover its monthly expenses.

The client's strategic objective was to provide high quality, professional and personalized landscaping services to its customers. While the strategy is a fine one, it works best by targeting customers who value such a high level of service and who are willing to pay the price for such intensive attention. Unfortunately, our client was selling mostly to very cost-conscious municipalities and public sector organizations. Hence, while they were successful in getting new customers, they were losing money on almost every job.

Unfortunately for our client, one cannot grow oneself out of an inherently negative cash flow situation where one's costs to provide something are in excess of the price one gets for selling it.

Holding On To An Old Strategy

Professor Peter Drucker is fond of asking whether a business is doing things right or doing the right things. In a dynamic economic environment, with markets and opportunities shifting and changing so rapidly, a company can find itself in dire straits seemingly overnight because it fails to adapt quickly enough to new paradigms affecting its key clients and prospects.

Even if the old strategies worked well in the past, there is no longer any guarantee that they will continue to work well in the future. The driving vision that informs a company's existence must be as dynamic as the environment in which the company competes. A firm can still be a high value-added supplier of products or services. but the definition of what constitutes "high value-added" will evolve over time.

We have a client who provides event security for nightclubs, concert venues and special events such as rodeos, parades, fairs, etc. The client's business requires a large supply of essentially cheap labor (mostly teenagers and college students) to work long hours for basically minimum wages. In exchange, these young workers do get to see a lot of concerts, receive backstage passes and have access to celebrities. For the workers, these perks more than make up for the long hours and low pay.

But from the perspective of our client, all these workers at all these small nightclubs, concert halls, arenas, convention centers and the like have become a major source of anxiety and stress. It takes a lot of administrative time to run what is essentially a "body shop", making sure that the stipulated number of people show up and work for the appointed time and place. All these people require uniforms, training, supervision and the like and the costs of administering all these elements is constantly increasing.

More importantly, providing event security has become almost a commodity in the past few years, since the barriers to new entrants are low and firms tend to grow their own competitors out of their own employee pool. In fact, our client spun out of another competitor just five years ago and has already spawned two new competitors from former employees. The supply of available young people is finite and there are a lot of employers trying to tap the same labor pool. Therefore, the whole cost dynamic and pricing flexibility of the market has shifted in recent years, making event security less glamorous than it was.

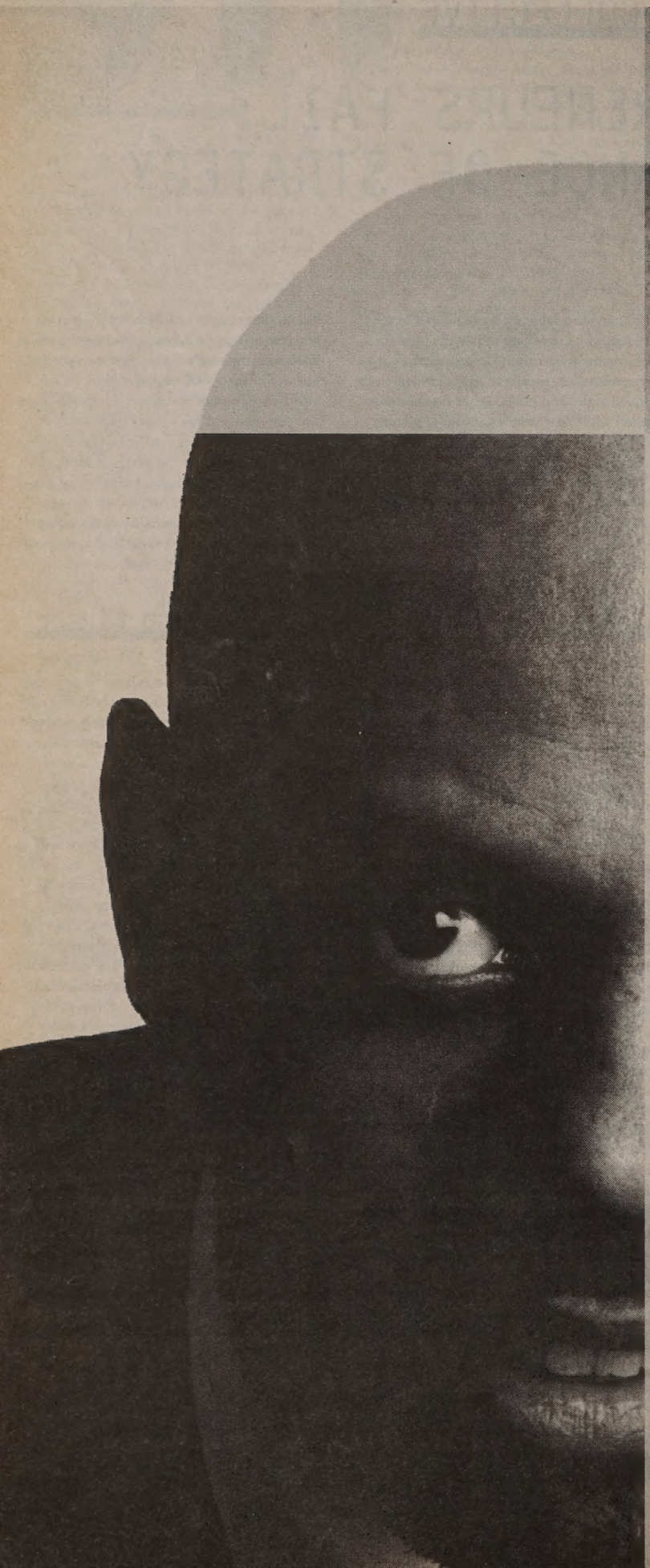
Moving From Challenge to Winner

In each of the examples above, we have essentially decent companies, run by very dedicated entrepreneurs who have known adversity and have survived. What makes their survival more problematic in today's economic climate is the fact that the margin for error is much narrower than it has ever been. This is an incredibly competitive marketplace and there are a lot of firms waiting for an entrepreneur to trip and drop the ball. Customers aren't willing to accept excuses for poor service or late deliveries or faulty products. Basically, companies have only one chance to make a go of it.

If an entrepreneur is going to really succeed in this environment, he or she will have to spend a great deal of time thinking strategically about their businesses, their customers, their suppliers and their industries. Moreover, they will have to become more expert in a wider range of managerial disciplines (planning, finance, marketing, et al) than ever before. The job of being an entrepreneur is much more complex today. Because of these complexities, entrepreneurs should rethink their willingness to go down this road alone. It will take more than one mind to become a Winner in today's dynamic economic environment.

*Pine Cobble Financial Group, Inc. specializes in providing professional, high quality, value-added financial services for entrepreneurial companies. In addition to financing short-term working capital needs of client firms, they also focus on strategic management consulting to enable entrepreneurs to better focus their efforts on creating Winning companies.

For more information, contact: Pine Cobble Financial Group, Inc./ 811 West 7th Street, Suite 1000/ Los Angeles, California 90017/ 213.362.7250 or 213.362.7252



"Coming out is not just acknowledging your same sex orientation. It's about coming out about your life, and living it as a whole person. It's about being true to self. It's about finding yourself, developing your mind, your spirit. It's about being part of the community and giving back what you are given.

Coming Out INTO THE LIGHT

William H. Jones, Jr. / photo by Jason Smith

Ernest Hite, Education Director at Oakland's AIDS Project of the East Bay, is a messenger. He has dedicated his life to identifying and addressing the ills within the community of black gay men by encouraging each of us to confront our fears; and rid ourselves of the twin curses of internalized racism and homophobia. He was called to this mission through the pain caused by coming of age in a culture whose spiritual values forced him to choose between his devotion to God and his attraction to other men.

The oldest of five children, this forty one year old native son of Champaign-Urbana, Illinois grew up within the sheltering stability provided by his parents Dorothy and Earnest Hite Sr. His father would die during Earnest's mid teens.

A school-yard crush at the age of four made him aware of his attraction to other boys.

"A boy named James seemed more appealing and exciting than any of the girls that I knew. It was an exciting experience to become aware of this attraction. For me this attraction to other men was quite natural."

Earnest and his school-yard buddy, James, grew up in the same neighborhood, never having a sexual encounter, but becoming lifelong best friends.

Growing up in a small town where everyone knew everyone else's family and everyone's business, there wasn't much talk of identifiable gays in the community.

"We always knew somebody's uncle was 'kinda funny', but I didn't know what that meant until I was much older. Such people were accepted but not dealt with very much. They were not really ostracized. They were accepted as long as they did not talk about 'it'."

Earnest's first sexual experience occurred when he was fifteen. It was during a weekend trip with a thirty-one year old church pianist named Alex. The pianist came on to him in the heat of the night. And although Earnest respected and was attracted to the man, he had no idea the man was gay.

"I was not ready for the experience. There were these mixed feelings; wanting to be with him; repelled by the thought of the experience."

At the age of 18, Earnest had a similar experience with a closeted gay cousin.

"During an overnight stay at my apartment he tries to do the same thing that Alex did, which is to come to me in the middle of the night. It was very dysfunctional behavior."

Earnest had his first real experience with gay life during his junior year at the University of Illinois in 1974 while studying radio and television communications and drama.

"I met a lot of people who were from Chicago and St. Louis who were gay, but I shied away from them because I felt they were too flamboyant. I felt that they would 'clock' me."

Struggling with needing to survive because he now lived on his own, as well as with his own inner issues as a gay man, drove Earnest to leave school. He spent the next seven years dealing with mounting angst concerning his sexuality.

"There was always this tendency to hide who I really was and to give this persona of a straight man."

In 1981 Earnest finally left the small town environment of Champaign-Urbana and moved to Chicago where he worked as a mail clerk at the University of Illinois.

"Chicago was a very good experience. Unencumbered by family and my local community, I had the opportunity to come out and really explore who I was. But at the same time I was still dealing with my sexuality and questioning whether I had a curse from God; whether I was an abomination that was going to go to hell for sleeping with other men.

"I was struggling with being called into the ministry as well as who I was as a gay man. I had moved to Chicago in order to help a friend, who was a minister, start a church. But at some point, I decided there was a conflict with the church, it's doctrine, and the reality of my life. I came to the reality that I had to stop lying to myself about who I was. I had to leave the church because it was a struggle I did not want to deal with. The church considers homosexuality an abomination; that people in the church can love you but hate who you are, which doesn't jibe with who God is. I needed to move away from the church in order to get a clear perspective as to where I needed to go; where I could be supportive of myself.

In 1983, Earnest slowly began his first few steps out of the closet. He begin meeting and fellowshipping with other gay people in clubs and at community meetings. He began reading literature such as Joseph Beam's In The Life that helped him develop an understanding of the normalcy of black homosexuality.

In 1988 Earnest Hit tested HIV positive. He remembers it as an absolutely devastating experience. But after spending the needed time to cry, he got busy as an AIDS activist. Leaving his job at the University of Chicago, he began working with people living with HIV in the AIDS community by volunteering at the county hospitals and with the Kapona Network, the most prominent agency serving Chicago's Black community.

"I was helping people understand the illness. While helping, I continued to disclose to people about my status; and also began to advocate for people."

Earnest finally came out to his family in 1991 when a body of research stating that homosexuality was genetically linked began to appear on the medical horizon. Jet magazine had found out about the research and was asking members of the Black gay community to give commentary.

"They needed Black gay men who did not mind being photographed," recalls Earnest, "And I didn't have any problem with that, but I needed to tell my family about it first."

The article, including his picture, finally appeared in Jet and propelled Earnest into the national spotlight, which only encouraged him to pursue more activism on behalf of those living with HIV and AIDS and those living with self-denial.

"I feel very strongly that it is absolutely essential that Black gay men come out of the closet, yet, so many of us are not willing to. We become politically active, but are inert when it comes to our orientation and identity.

During his 14 years in Chicago, HIV education and prevention became a consuming passion for Earnest, and due to the fact that AIDS was initially reported by the white media as a white gay disease, the larger African American community's discounting of the epidemic created an uphill battle. But Earnest worked tirelessly. In 1990 he began writing for a local lesbian and gay paper called Outlines while accelerating his activism in the Black and Black homosexual community.

"We need to be not only concerned about health but concerned about psycho-social, economic, and spiritual issues."

In 1994, whole attending the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention: Gay Men of Color Conference in Chicago, Ernest met a young man named William Bland.

"A Wonderful person," he recalls with a warm smile. "We started talking to each other, and we really liked one another. We started dating and communicating back and forth."

It was love, and also an opportunity to make a move that Earnest had been contemplating for some time, that finally convinced him to leave Chicago. William lived in the Oakland Bay area and Earnest wanted to be with him. "Leaving Chicago was actually a very difficult decision to make. There was so much community organizing to leave behind. But I maintain that no movement should depend on one individual, one icon of the movement, because if that person is removed the movement stops."

Settling in California meant finding a job. Although a job offer with the San Francisco-based Brothers Network fell through, he landed his current position with the Aids Project of the East Bay a month later. Relocating to California has also proven beneficial to his health.

"My T Cell count has stabilized. In fact, it is going back up. I'm becoming involved in combination therapy. I take D4t, another anti viral, and a protease inhibitor.

"Being out here in California has also allowed me to refocus. My partner, William, has been helpful in providing support, and nourishing me, caring for me; and I for him."

Their union is not only personally positive, but politically powerful, as they both hold high profile positions. William Bland is the National Program Director for the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention. He is responsible for producing technical assistance for gay men of color throughout the United States. But understanding the toll that such demanding responsibilities can take on a relationship, the need for a pragmatic approach, is a reality.

"You have to make time to deal with one another. It's the quality of time that matters. Do things that are supportive of each other that allows the person to regroup, refocus and be cared for. Those are the critical things we try to do. At 41 I'm not as beholden to having an individual and controlling them. I don't have to be with him every minute of the day. It's more important to support them and nurture them rather than wonder where he is day in and day out."

Over the years, Earnest has also learned to reconcile his feelings about the church and his natural feelings as a same gender loving Black man.

"There is this ongoing, prominent belief [in the church] that homosexuality is an abomination, and anyone that practices it is going to hell. These ideas are drilled into the heads of children from a very young age, leaving a dangerous psychological imprint on their minds. When they begin having sex with other men they normalize their negative conditioning into their consciousness. They feel bad about themselves when they relate to men.

"The only way to address homophobia in the church and in the community is through education. And, on another level, you have to be proactive and simply say that this—homophobia—is unacceptable. Key to this strategy is encouraging church members—the deacons, the choir, the community organizers who are gay, lesbian or transgender—to come out.

"Internalized homophobia creates massive dysfunction within the community. As a result a lot of people in their late 20's and early 30's are still dealing with adolescent issues, creating a lot of unproductive behavior by people trying to normalize themselves.

"Sexuality tends to dominate our adult lives as a result of not having that period of adjustment during our adolescence. The development of negotiating skills necessary to talk about what we want out of life become retarded. Ultimately, what is at stake is the survival of the community."

When Earnest speaks of community, he is not speaking in traditional terms. "Our community is not geographic, but is spiritual in nature," he points out. "We represent all social and economic classes. The community exits wherever one is connected to another gay brother, sister, transgender, or bisexual. That's community; where we can commune and unite around our issues."

Earnest feels that overthrowing the tyranny of homophobia in the Black homosexual community requires a master plan.

"We have to look at our own involvement in our self-destruction. The loss of one life, due to internalized homophobia, is unacceptable.

"The most effective way to deal with our people in our community is for each one of us same gender loving individuals to stand up and say 'It is wrong for anyone to discriminate against us.' We must each become a committee of one to interface with our community; our families, our pastor, the corner store folk, and talk about what is good about our community and what is wrong about discrimination. Only when you get people talking about that can we begin to change the negative mind set of the community.

"In terms of the black church, we are dealing with people who are not that well educated about what it means to be gay. Education is truly the key because once people understand, they will have correct information upon which to act."

Earnest firmly believes that we, particularly black same gender loving men, must live the love the late Marlon Riggs so aptly called a revolutionary act, but not just in the context of the sexual, but the brotherly love that calls for caring for one another, supporting each other.

"There is no real place for us to feel safe," he reminds, "The social milieu that seems to engulf our lives—the bars, parties, etc—don't provide a real catalyst for discussion of issues that affect our lives qualitatively. We need to step away from just the sexual stuff, get more involved politically and remove the class barriers that segregate within the black gay community.

"I found that most [activist] groups tend to be very intellectual and removed from the rest of the community regarding issues that affect them. The intellectual part of the community needs to connect with those who may not have as much formal education and bring them into the struggle. You must feel you have something to gain by becoming part of the process. Many feel they are not a part of anything, that they are just existing."

Because of the devastating number of casualties claimed by AIDS in the black homosexual community, Earnest recognizes HIV and AIDS as catalysts to encourage the taking up of arms.

"We are losing people by the tens of thousands over something that should have been resolved a long time ago. AIDS is taking the life force from our communities. That's enough! The reality is that we must fight for our lives. No one else will do that.

"Health is so important. We must strive to stay alive. In order to do that, we must acknowledge that if we have HIV, or some other health challenge, we need to address it in a positive way.

"We as same gender loving people need to come out of our closets at work and identify with our straight brother so that together we can do the job we need to do in our community, because the community needs all of us. It's just that simple. It's just that crucial."

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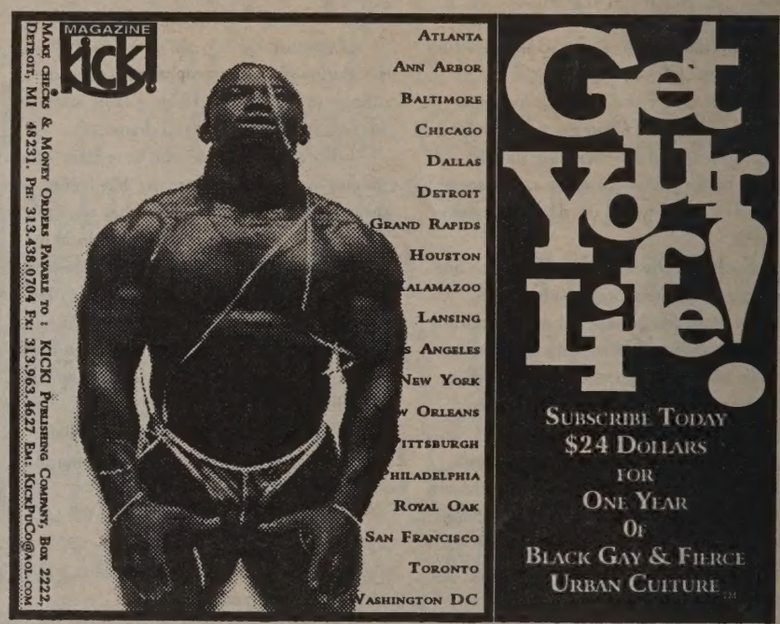

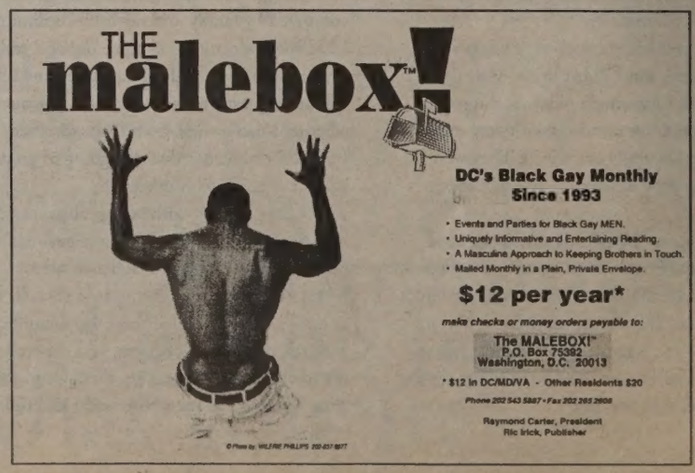
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WHY DO WE HAVE UNSAFE SEX?

by Ted Kirk, Ph.D.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania—I had a conversation not long ago with an acquaintance who is very well educated, in the heart of middle age, and real enthusiastic about life. He told me a story about how he had unprotected anal intercourse with a young man he had just met. My jaw was already on the floor before he got to the part where he told me, "and he ejaculated inside me." I was astonished—no, horrified. "How," I asked, "could you do that?" This man, who has read all the same articles I have and knows people who have died from AIDS said, "It felt like the right thing to do. I trusted him. He told me that he'd tested negative."

Right, and the check is in the mail.

In the heat of passion people usually let their feelings get in the way of rational thinking and decision making. The above story is a common one to which many of us may relate. The reasons for making poor decisions is a complex process. There is no single answer why irrational decisions are made. This is especially true for sexual behavior and HIV infection.

Making decisions about sexual encounters are not as easy as we want them to be. For people who are HIV+ or have AIDS, deciding to tell or not tell their sex partners is one of the most important decisions to make. For people who are HIV-, deciding to ask is equally important. It would seem that since 1981, when the pandemic of AIDS began, these questions would not be so difficult. Unfortunately, stigma about HIV disease is still very real and has a significant impact on people and their mental/emotional health. Some significant reasons people engage in unsafe sexual behavior include substance abuse, self-esteem, and stigma.

One factor which contributes to making poor decisions about unsafe sexual behavior involves the use of substances. Recreational drugs and alcohol contribute greatly to poor decision making. When a person is high or drunk they are not thinking clearly or rationally. Clouded judgement usually means a person under the influence can not make clear choices about what they want to do—or not do. When a person is HIV+, having sex and intercourse can be stressful and produce anxiety. Sometimes people self-medicate—either with several drinks or by getting high—and then make poor decisions about sexual intercourse.

Another issue about substance abuse and use means you are also impacting on your immune system. If you are HIV+ and have a weakened immune system, using can only impact on your immune system harder. You may be more open to sexually transmitted diseases in addition to HIV. Using substances usually affects self-esteem.

Living with HIV and AIDS usually causes the person to re-define himself. Basic questions like "Who will want me?" and "How can I have a full life?" are, unfortunately, asked. Self-esteem, how we feel about ourselves, is very important. When we do not feel good about ourselves, we may make poor decisions about what to do with ourselves.

When it comes to sex, HIV disease and AIDS make something enjoyable into something which has to be talked about first. In order to have this discussion, a person needs to feel good enough about himself to make responsible decisions.

Another contribution to poor self-esteem is the risk of rejection. Telling a potential sex-partner (assuming you have decided to inform your sex partners about your HIV+ status), may cause the other person to leave.

Deciding to have consensual sex is fun and pleasurable. When you don't feel very good about yourself, you may think having sex is one way to help improve your mood. This is not always true. Poor self-esteem and self-worth generally create stress. Stress is anything which upsets the "balance" or homostatis within the person. This may be on a physical, mental, emotional, and sometimes spiritual level. Stress on the physical level may mean a weakened immune system in someone who is HIV+. When we don't feel good or are sick; this can lower our body image. Mentally, this person is working on re-defining who they are, and emotionally, stress can contribute to depression. Many times there is a sense of guilt which can also create stress and lower self-esteem.

Another significant contributor to how we develop negative feelings about ourselves is stigma. This is especially true for people with HIV disease and AIDS. The society we live in today makes many assumptions about PWHIVs and PWAs. Among these assumptions are implications we are "getting what we deserve" or we are "morally sick", etc. Because of the stigma, being able to talk to loved ones may not be possible. Rejection from loved ones and family is still very real for people living with HIV disease today. Stigma also prevents us from seeking appropriate help. We may fear going to the doctor because we "might be seen." Or, if a PWHIV or PWA decides to take medication, concerns about filling the prescription are present. Stigma also has important resources within various socio-economic communities and ethnic communities. Having a religious upbringing may have taught you a complex set of rules about sex which may be confusing. This also contributes to stress.

Learning to respond to the above and take care of ourselves is something we must still do. One of the things HIV disease and AIDS has taught us is that how we feel about ourselves affects our physical health. Addressing the ways in which we can take more responsibility about our sex-lives and other aspects of our lives can help in healing for the PWHIV and PWA. Judy Tatelbaum, MSW, lists some thoughts which can contribute to healing. These include: 1) Expressing all of your feelings and then letting them go. Feelings expressed disappear. 2) The commitment not to suffer. 3) Acknowledging and loving yourself (through counseling, support groups, recovery groups, etc.). 4) Raising self-esteem. 5) Forgiving ourselves and others. 6) Appreciating our lives----seeing life as a gift.

Additionally, for PWHIVs and PWAs, learning about safer sex and harm reduction is important. Become comfortable with talking about what feels right to you and what doesn't.

The most important thing to remember is to make informed choices and decisions. Including checking in with yourself about how you are feeling—your self-esteem.

There are many resources available to you to begin talking about these issues. Among these resources are peer counselors or Positive Voices Team Members at We The People here in Philadelphia. Also, professional mental health workers, psychologists, and counselors can help you develop the resources within.

This article originally appeared in Alive & Kicking!, the monthly newsletter and calendar of We The People Living With AIDS/HIV of the Delaware Valley, Inc. The We The People Life Center is open Monday through Friday, 10 A.M to 12 midnight, and weekends from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. The address is 425 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19147-1126. For more information on We The People call 215.6868 or FAX 215.5458437

PENiS (NON) ERECTUS

by Paul Smith LICSW

a new disease?

Washington D.C.—An emerging sexual malady that is cracking open yet another closet door is a condition I call "Penis [Non]Erectus", or the inability to get it up and keep it up during that grand bedroom performance that we all relish so much. For the guy afflicted however, he sees it as a grand nightmare filled with humiliation and shame.

Penis [Non]Erectus (this is NOT the clinical term) is more common than we want to acknowledge. Most men find the condition very disturbing and are usually unwilling to talk about it even with their doctor or therapist. I had one client of mine tell me "it's the WORST possible thing that could happen to me!" I was not surprised by his despair. We men have been sold a bill of goods. We have been duped into believing that we should be able to "rise" to any occasion, with any partner, at any time. The mark of a real man is his unwavering ability to get it up and keep it up until the dastardly deed is done—huh?

This has also held some historical relevance to the Black man's sense of personal power. The ravages of slavery have so stripped the African American male of his perception of power that, for many of us, our sense of personal power is tied to our virility and our virility to our masculinity. So, it does not surprise me when underneath the embarrassed mumble is found a deep sense of inadequacy and emasculation.

When a man comes in to see me and reports that he is having difficulty with his erection, the first thing that I need to rule out is any physical or medical problem. Is there some arterial blockage of blood to the penis; or muscle tissue constriction inhibiting blood flow; or leakage of blood through the veins in the penis hence reducing the fullness of the erection. A comprehensive urological examination by a urologist would be needed to determine any of these problems. There are other medical conditions that affect the libido and the degree and density of the erection i.e. testosterone imbalances, diabetes, heart disease, and alcohol or drug abuse, to name a few. Medications for such conditions as depression, anxiety, and high blood pressure can also effect the capacity for erection.

Aside from known physical and medical effects are several psychological effects. Performance anxiety is the most common psychological effect. Worry or dread that one might fail sets into motion a self fulfilling prophecy of psychological impotence.

Anger is another emotional block. It can be anger at one's partner or anger at some situation that may create a block to one's ability to perform. Deep sadness and grief from a major loss or trauma can also effect libidinal responses. Not to mention fear of AIDS and that whole "bag".

Going further with this, we need to debunk the notion that we are sexual autotrons able to fuck on command any moist orifice that turns itself up to us. A desk reference that I use in my work with men is Bernie Zilbergeld's "The New Male Sexuality". In it he makes the point that good sex requires good conditions and these conditions vary from man to man. Therefore, only you can decide what conditions optimize your sexual capacity and fulfillment.

What do we mean by conditions? Conditions are anything that contributes to the success or failure of the experience. Put another way, positive conditions clear the nervous system of anxiety, frustration and emotional clutter that blocks the blood from flowing freely into the penis. It is equally important to consider the negative conditions that would create such emotional blocks. Such things as physical chemistry, time of day, state of mind, mood, physical surroundings, foreplay, hygiene, touch, smell, noise level, etc...are many of the conditions that contribute to the heightening of arousal; getting it up and maintaining an erection throughout the course of lovemaking until ejaculation is reached with the "owner of the boner" completely in charge every step of the way.

According to Zilbergeld, men have a lot of trouble accepting the concept that such conditions play a critical role in male sexual functioning. Men would rather hold to the belief that their dicks should function unconditionally. God knows where that myth came from.

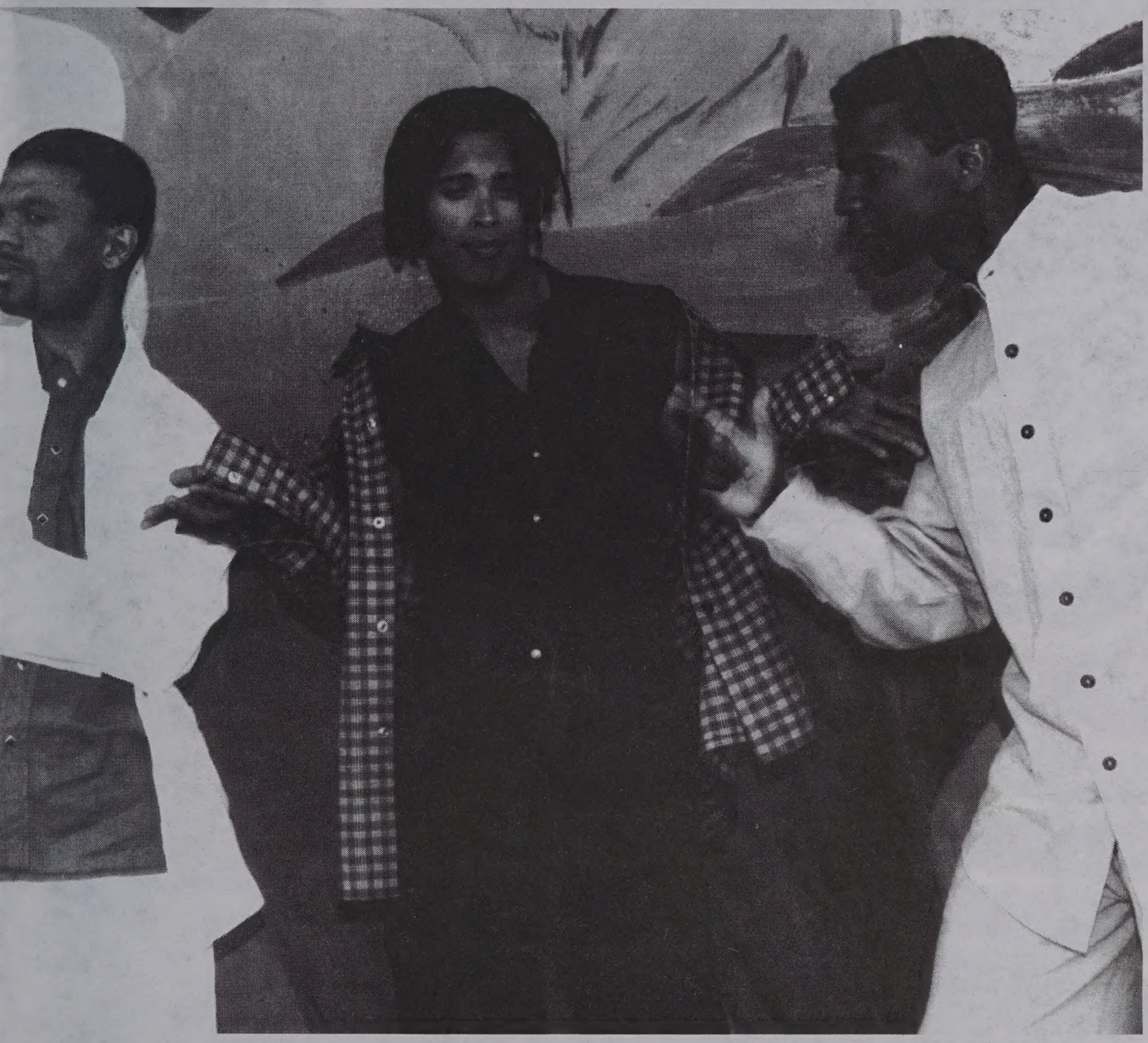
I am personally relieved to know that I am a human being and not a sexual autotron. I would rather believe that my penis is not merely an extension of my masculinity and that the best test of my masculinity is not my ability to control my erection. I agree with Zilbergeld that it is okay to need my own desires, preferences, concerns, anxieties and style around sexual performance. They are not to be viewed as deficiencies, but rather as my uniqueness and my personal province over my sexual milieu.

Finally, if you are one-in-three men who will at some point in his adult sexual history experience some form of "Penis [Non]Erectus", do not despair. Seek help. There are some highly effective ways of treating this dysfunction. For most men, the psychological and emotional anguish is far too great to suffer in silence. So swing that closet door open and come out and talk to someone who can help you.

FASHION:

A MEN DING THE 'SHAW

by Orlando Robinson, Fashion Editor



Left page: Linen and cotton are in your face. On the right, Valentino wears a white linen suit by Kenn Brooks over a royal blue lycra short sleeved shirt by It Sportswear. In the middle, E.L. wears a linen ensemble by Straňger clothing company. On the left, Mark Anthony wears a short sleeved cotton blend shirt by Straňger over a blue jumper by Kenn Brooks.

Right page: Confusion. Fashions by Kenn Brooks and It Sportswear.

Styling by Orlando Robinson
Photography by Ron Singleton
(shot in and around The Leimert Park Village)

Models: E.L. Moore/Crew Men
Mark Anthony/Crew Men
Valentino/Bobby Ball, Orlando/Privilege

Clothing credits: Kenn Brooks 213.688.1142
Ron Wash for It Sportswear 213.489.7677
T.J. Walker for Nation 800.559.8979
Straňger 213.892.0706
YMLA 213.629.0778

Keep it simple and fitting seems to be the mood of Spring 1996. Pay attention to the fine tailoring offered this season (and not the absence of black male models in some of the ad campaigns). Stretch and sheer fabrics will dominate. Prints are popular, and let us not forget brights, plaids and stripes. Revital, revamp, recreate, retro but with a 90's flair. Don't knock it until you've tried it, or at least have seen supermodel Tyson Beckford wear the stuff (if he can, you can too).

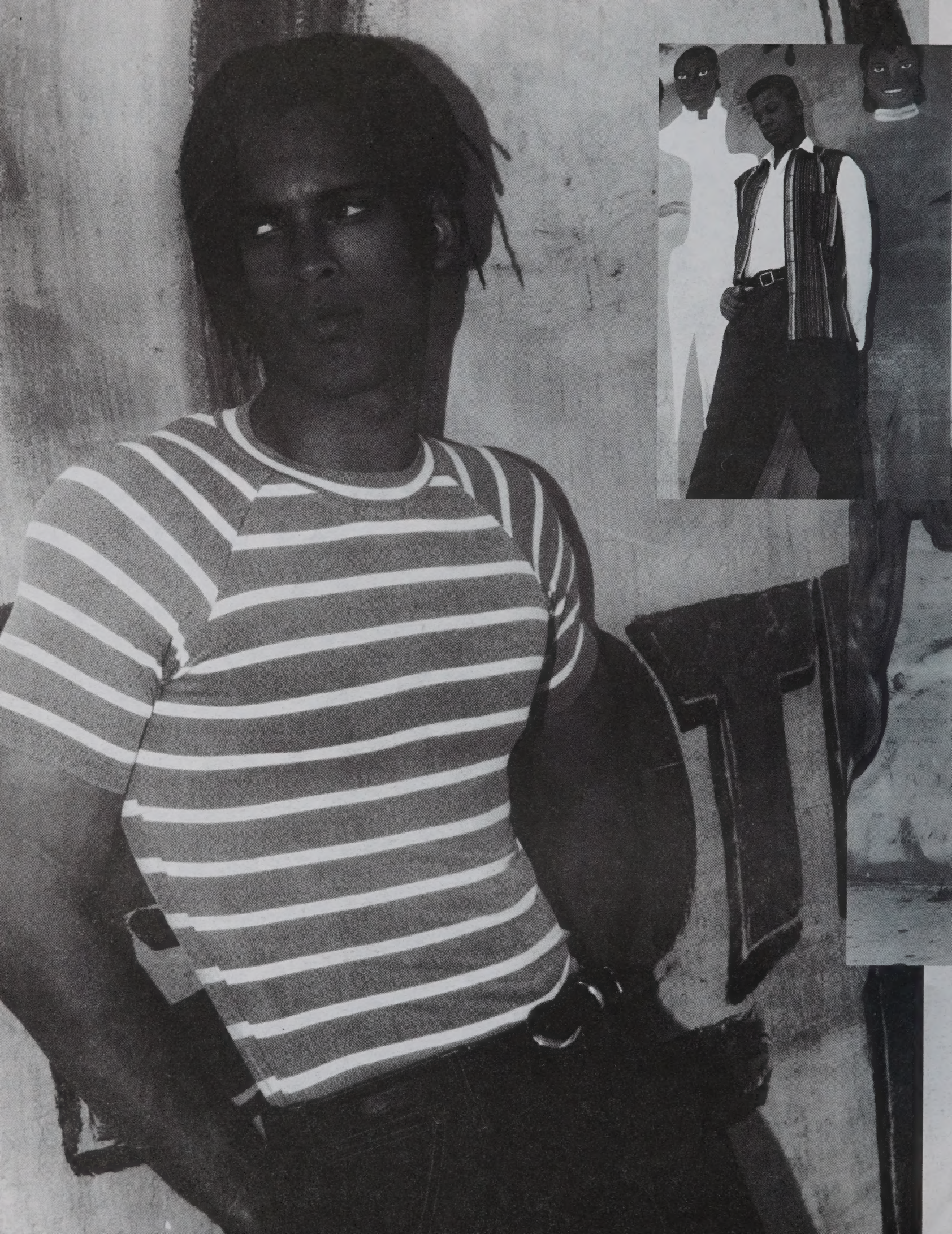
The 70's influence can definitely be seen in lapels, fabrics and styles. Mudcloth and African prints are making strong impacts in fashion as well, but look out for those animal prints because only the bold and the beautiful will be able to pull them off. (Hopefully, some of you have the personality to create the illusion, unlike the tired opening of the tired soap just mentioned—face it, kindergartens have colored better than their opening montage).

And for you conservative folk, whites have made a strong resurgence as a must rather than a complement, along with the usual earth tones and pastels. (Sounds more like an Aaron Spelling production or that new rip off series 'Friends').

Body contour clothing has unquestionably given a new meaning to the phrase 'of warmer months' (and add another incentive for those spring and summer trips).

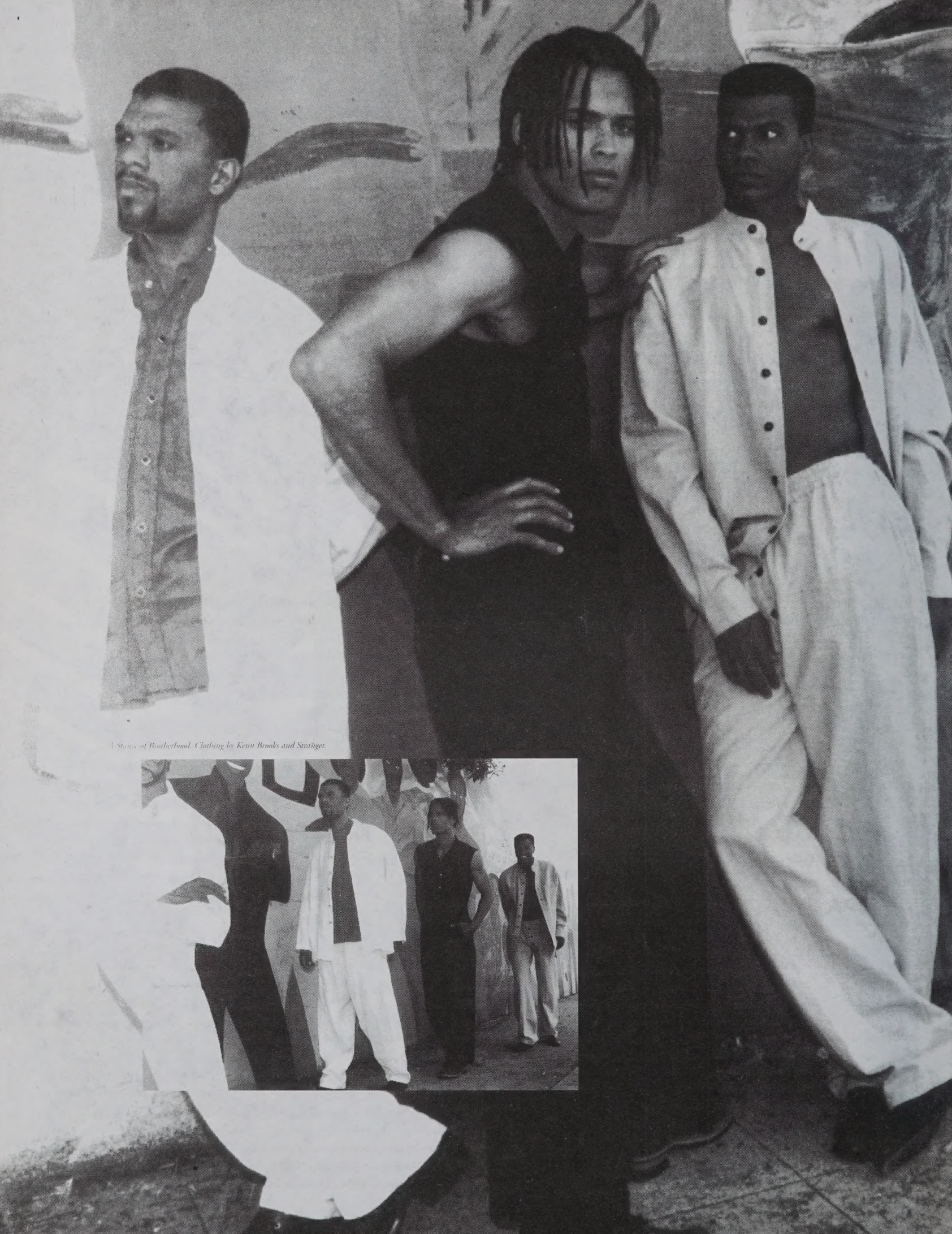
This TV season has brought forth a fresh new African American sitcom that happens to be based in L.A.'s Leimert Park Village (thank the Lord for her 'Best Friend'). Stars and celebrities (too many to name) are not the only ones getting face lifts. Leimert Park, the city's premiere Black cultural neighborhood, has gone under some serious reconstruction and now boasts a new Black Resource Center and Art Gallery (thank you Ms. Calloway).

And to help create these wonderful images on the following pages, designers form It Sportswear, Kenn Brooks, Nation, Straňger and YMLA contributed a few samples of their works. For those of you that live in Los Angeles, you can see these and plenty more up close and in color while the rest of you can call for catalogs or wait to visit the showrooms when you are out here during the ATB Malibu Beach Party.

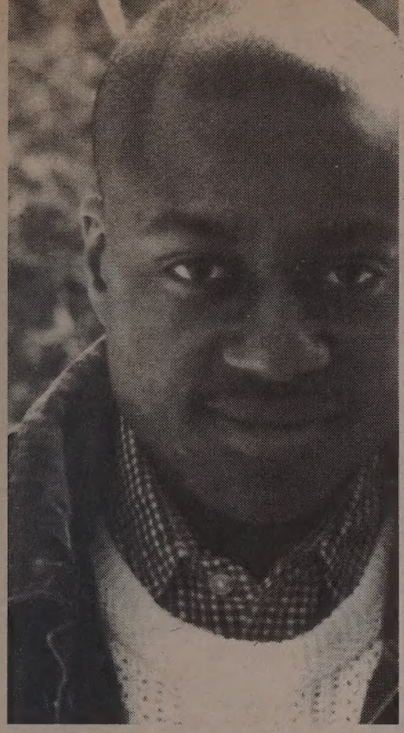


Not a regular scene on the 'shaw. On the left, E.L. sports a gray and white stretch shirt by YMLA with a baggy style denim jean by Nation. In the middle, Valentino gives a high fashion, electrifying look by wearing an orange organza shirt and hot pink organza pant by It Sportswear with a 70's inspired lapel ribbed knit shirt from YMLA. Right, Mark Anthony wears Kenn Brooks and Kikit.

Don't let the image fool you. Orlando wears a basketball ensemble by Nation.



Stance of Brotherhood. Clothing by Kenn Brooks and Stwänger.



In 1994, writer James Earl Hardy broke new ground with his bold and black international best-seller B-BOY BLUES, the first Africentric gay hip-hop love story. For that effort, Mr. Hardy was honored with SBC'S 1994-95 Brother of the Year Award/Literature. He is also the author of a biography on film-maker Spike Lee and of a portrait of the pop group Boyz II Men. Hardy is an honors graduate of both St. John's University and Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, and his byline has appeared in The Washington Post, Entertainment Weekly, Newsweek, Essence, and The Advocate. Born and reared in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, and currently living in New York City, his short story, TAKE THE "A" TRAIN, will appear in the Black gay anthology SHADE (Avon Books) to be published in June. In February of this year, Mr. Hardy was invited to serve on the panel at the Outwrite '96 Convention in Boston. The following is the text of his opening remarks:

MY BOOK'S BIGGER (AND BETTER) THAN YOURS

by James Earl Hardy / photo by Alvin Agarrot

Boston, Massachusetts—Who ever thought of asking me to be on this panel must have been reading my mind. Since B-BOY BLUES was published in late '94, I've heard the word "competition" come out of the mouths of many—and the name E. Lynn Harris has always followed.

Naturally, E. Lynn and I are in competition because we're both Black gay men vying for the same audience, right? Wrong. Yes, we're both Black and gay, and men who are Black and gay may be our target audience. But we each highlight particular aspects of the African-American gay experience, which is still grossly under-represented in literature. Instead of creating characters that are the Blackground in a white gay man's world (which has been the norm), we capture the sensibilities and ideals of same gender loving men of African descent who exits outside the lesbian and gay (read: white) community.

And, in exploring this diversity, we have and will continue to receive a diversity of reactions from that so-called target audience. Contrary to what some think, not every single Black gay or bisexual man is going to like what one or either of us creates. This explains why E. Lynn and I have gotten "negative" (or should we say vicious?) reviews from so-called Black gay critics; why we've received letters from brothers who embrace him but rebuke me and vice versa (the common complaints being that I'm "too Black" and he's "not gay enough"); and why I always cringe when folks compare our styles and announce I am better than him, expecting me to nod my head in agreement (uh-huh, just trying to start some shit).

So, no Virginia, we are not in competition—at least not the way people think. If we're really competing for anything, it's R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

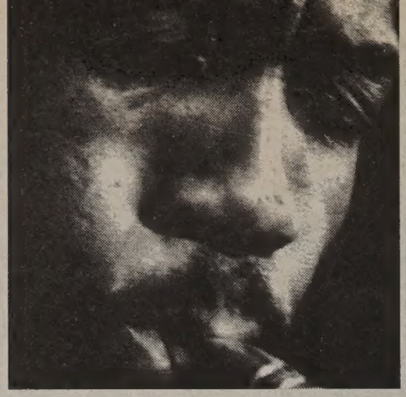
For example: while shopping around the sequel to B-BOY BLUES, the standard rejection line was: "Your work is too similar to [you know who]"—and, believe it or not, you know who's publisher was one of them. This would be funny if it weren't so insulting. First, anyone who has actually read our work and not just our faces would know that Raymond Tyler and Mitchell Crawford live in different worlds: they are not in the same space (mentally, culturally, sexually, or spiritually), nor do they occupy the same place (socially or politically). Secondly, even if their life stations and life stories were similar, so what? Could one possibly be saying that there is room for only one pomo Afro homo in the literary universe at a time? The success of our books show that there is an audience out there hungry for our stories—and that folks who aren't Black and/or gay will go along for the ride. But instead of acknowledging and appreciating our contributions, we're boxed into the "Black gay author" category and are expected to accept "novelty" status. But, despite what Advocate Men fetishizes, Black men are not "back" because we never went anywhere, nor are Black artist "in" because Time Magazine declares this on their cover.

This "flavor of the month" syndrome bestowed upon E. and I means the work of other African and Caribbean same gender loving men go unnoticed or ignored, such as John R. Keene, whose breezy, brilliant semi-autobiographical novel, ANNOTATIONS, I wish I had written; and Thomas Wright, a poet with promise from Philly, whose first collection is aptly titled HUMAN EMOTIONS. I mention them because I understand that, in an industry that will easily award a seven-figure contract, National Book Award, or a Pulitzer to someone white who write about emotionally deficient, chronically unemployed, welfare collectin', criminal-minded, gun-totin', violent-prone, self-hating Black people for the entertainment and bemusement of white folks, it is important for me to remember who my rivals aren't. Black authors are constantly told, through word and deed, that we are not qualified to define and document what Black is and what Black ain't. As a result, there isn't an extensive canon of contemporary work for gay/bi brothers to choose from. So every title that makes it to a bookshelf that is by us, about us, and for us not only allows us to hold up a mirror to ourselves, but is a testament to our existence for generations to come. It helps break that deafening code of silence, that wall of invisibility, following the legacies of Baldwin, Nugent, Cullen, Hughes, Thurman, and Delany, and finishing the unfinished business of Corbin, Saint, Dixon, Hemphill, and Beam, aligning, avenging, affirming, and arriving with the intent to stay.

So, like the elders advise, "Each one, pull one." When the door has been opened, even if it's just a crack, bring someone along with you. E. Lynn gave me a jacket blurb for B-BOY BLUES. I agreed to contribute to a Black gay anthology even though I never wrote short fiction before. We don't have the luxury to participate in "divide-and-conquer, tit-for-tat, my book deal-sales are bigger than yours" games, for our lives—our past, present and future—are at stake. We have to form a communion that will nurture and support the writer and the work because the uninformed, shortsighted, racist, elitist, classist, homophobic publishing industry won't.

In essence, one person's success does not mean another has failed or isn't good; it means that it will be a little bit easier—and I do mean a little bit—for those following who may look like and love like him to get an agent to take them on, have an editor take them and their work seriously, get a lucrative deal, and see that title become a best-seller (maybe even a movie). And it also means that "the Black gay literary renaissance" I have been hearing so much about the past year and a half may finally happen.

I know this. E. Lynn does too. Now, if only we could get everyone else to.



BILLY HARPER

Do you pick up pennies?
Yes, the little copper Lincoln heads. I do because I was told as a child that they brought good luck. It took a while to realize that all foundlings are symbols of good fortune if you can put yourself aside long enough to recognize the good in the thing or the deed or the human being. Tough lesson to learn, especially in a business where everything that glitters is surely gold. Even copper. And on that note, let's dive right into it.

FISHBURN RAPS IN LIVING COLOUR
Whenever a door closes, soon opens another. And so it is that while Black rock group, LIVING COLOUR is now defunct, lead singer, VERNON REID's solo album comes out this spring and features past Oscar nominee, LAURENCE FISHBURN rapping on one track.

MUSIC TO GRIND BY
Okay, while in search of great music, I must admit that the idea of yet another compilation of soul hits from not too long ago was somewhat less than appealing. However, SLOWJAMS: THE TIMELESS COLLECTION, Vols. 5 and 6 (The Right Stuff) is a pure gold, old school, B-side—but not necessarily bad— jammy jam and celebration of R&B at its essence. You know, that stuff that used to be scandalously sensual without necessarily being graphically sexual. It's the stuff you could play up in ya mama's house back in the day without getting cussed out. It's also the stuff you can play when you move back in (temporarily of course), or if you live alone and are thinking of affecting a change in that situation, then Slow Jams is that just-right musical touch when you might just be thinking about love.

DE NIRO TAKES MICHAEL'S SHOW TO BROADWAY
And in other news and unmentionables, MICHAEL JACKSON's "Sisterella," the hit "urban musical" rooted in the classic, "Cinderella", appears to be Broadway©bound following it's premier on the west coast at the Pasadena Playhouse. Jackson's musical commitments, however, preclude his involvement in the New York production. Instead, Miramax Films and Tribeca Productions (headed by actor ROBERT DE NIRO) will produce the Broadway version and possibly a film. In a related story, LATOYA JACKSON has agreed to turn down the volume on her new hair color rather than face contempt of fashion and reality charges in a Paris court.

STILL GOOD FOR THE BASEMENT PARTIES
Alright, alright, oil up and prepare to spank me good. Yes, it took the unleashing of the "Maze Featuring Frankie Beverly Anthology" (The Right Stuff) to make me a fan of MAZE, FRANKIE and the rest. No, I didn't grow up listening to the quintessential party band whose park/fair-grounds/campsite concerts are legendary. Well, in this compilation of material spanning '76 to '86 the gang reaffirms why they remain the ultimate backyard barbecue band while being a major concert attraction. Clean delivery on the live tracks and a sure groove no grandstanding, made me put my hand up in the air more than once. They evoked my prepubescence through full-fledged manhood while evoking their own better known in some cases, but perhaps less significant contemporaries (again in some cases) like RUFUS FEATURING CHAKA KHAN and THE DOOBIE BROTHERS and EARTH WIND AND FIRE and THE COMMODORES and the list, of course, could go on. But the good thing is that Frankie Beverly and Maze or Maze Featuring Frankie Beverly (sort of like that ridiculous "star billing" Rufus/Chaka thing. When we hear the music, who cares about whose name comes first, OKAAAAAY?!) is/are back and we're all the better for it.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH
Word to the wise: if you missed SPEECH's debut CD, "Speech," and if you like loopy humor, a healthy dose of cultural observation and crisp, stripped down grooves, then ya missed out big time. Whether the now defunct ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT's erstwhile frontman's offering up his new jack order revision on MARVIN GAYE's classic "What's Going On" or proffering his own ruminations on the state of the American disunion/disfunction, the gentleman (and brand new papa), all on his own, pulls a PAUL SIMON, showing us where the driving songwriting force emanated from in the earlier permutation. But its all good, all fun (if lacking the bite and eminent pop appeal of a "Mr. Wendel" or "Everyday People" not to mention the clarity and pure genius of the relatively underappreciated rap/pop masterpiece, "Tennessee"). "Speech," however, harkens back to the zaniness of fun/funkmeisters supreme, PARLIAMENT FUNKADELIC. Tasteeeeee. Psycho-alpha-disco-beta-bio-aqua-dooloop anyone?

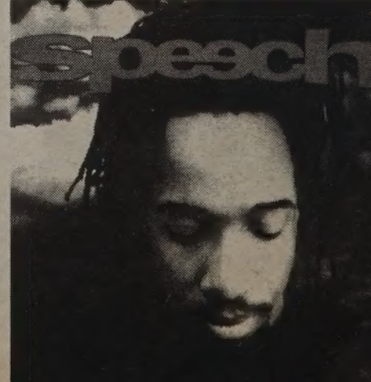
ALL THAT JAZZ
Master jazz composer/musician, GEORGE DUKE, turns maestro of sorts with the sumptuous "Muir Woods Suite," (Warner Bros.) an orchestral nod to one of his favorite childhood haunts. Far from abandoning his jazz roots, Duke gives layers of alternately 'h)0*0*0*dark and shimmering textures by cross pollinating the L'orchestreNationale de Lille with a formidable jazz quartet featuring Duke on piano, Stanley Clarke on bass, Chester Thompson on drums and Paulinho Da Costa on percussion. The result is a classy, beautiful and wholly satisfying live recording from 1993's Montreaux Jazz Festival. Believe me, after the initial shock that this is a George Duke project, you won't be able to stop playing this enchanting little gem.If you like your jazzy

wordvibechapterverse

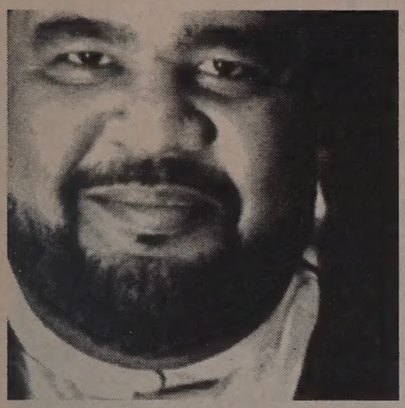
by Gregory Eugene Travis, Arts & Entertainment Editor

JESSE POWELL

SPEECH



SLOW JAMS



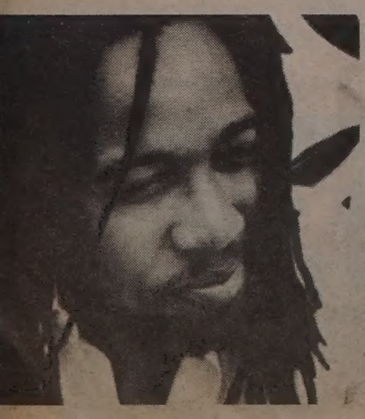
GEORGE DUKE

magic potions straight, no chaser, peep this. When tenorman BILLY HARPER picks up his ax and plays the sexiest instrument in the musical firmament, its as if he's taken an eight million mile long pair of tongs, snatched off a chunk of the sun and dropped the white hot dollop sizzling and sputtering into your fine cognac. The heat is dazzling, the taste divine. On, "Somalia" (Evidence) his thirteenth recording as a frontman, Harper takes on the rhythms and conflicts of that African country. The result is stirring, twisting, tangling writhing homage to that country's current turmoil, perhaps best portrayed by the CD's longest tune (runningjust shy of 22 minutes!), "They Will Be Done" with its grand, rolling, cascading, discordant phrases over endless but shifting percussive blows. The influences of the progressive masters Harper played with and for over the years like ART BLAKEY, GIL EVANS and THAD JONES shines through in the lean yet full, muscular arrangements and the cohesiveness of Harper's tight playing unit. Brash and uncompromising as the midday Somalian sun, "Somalia" the collection and its creator, Billy Harper, can take the heat. That's why they turned it up.And another Brother In (jazz) Arms is making waves with THE CYRUS CHESTNUT TRIO's "Another Direction" (Evidence). With noble assistfrom CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE and CARL ALLEN on drums, Mr. Chestnut & Posse cook! Feels like VINCE GIRALDI, OSCAR PETERSON on the lyrical and meditative cover of the SAMUEL M. LEWIS-J. FRED COOTS standard, "For All We Know". The spirited and playful romp through an Ellington medley (while feeling at times like a tongue-in-cheek audition for a Broadway©bound serious jazz Duke Fest) does the master composer's and jazz deity's sense of humor and love of a twisty-turney, knotsey-curvy phrasing proud. Cyrus' rendition of IRVING BERLIN's evanescently hopeful "Blue Skies" is similarly artful with its dense, lush, urbanely lean-meated no-nonesense treatment which —as if surveying our baby blue dome over cloud-making industrial stovepipe chim'nies—doesn't entirely trust that that blue is any more natural than a henna rinse. This blue sky is an arm's-length held beauty from whom Le Trio keeps its distance by being charming and aloof. Ultimately, though, Chestnut cozies up when the burden of interpreting well known material lifts and evaporates like a false maternity. While Arthur Schwartz's "Alone Together" receives lovely treatment, Chestnut's own compositions establish him as a far more than capable composer and arranger, one worthy of the liner notes' praise from BETTY CARTER. Cyrus Chestnut's spare, intimate compositions are going to be the mainstay of this PianMan-To-Be-Reckoned-With's career. As entertainment, this is anytime-of-the-day-or-night jazz. But, then, good music, like good wine and/or good friends, is welcome anytime, anywhere

YOUNG, GIFTED AND PHYNE! You know, as much as I love listening to new music and "discovering" new artists in the comfort of my own space, most of the time I go through a couple of stacks of disks before anything turns up that's worthy of praise (or trashing for that matter). Often the only time I get to have fun with this very dirty and stressful job is when I read the glowing tributes the record companies and publicists send over to help me get acquainted with their artist. Let's just say that if I had a dollar for every time a new singer has been described as the next ARETHA, the next JACKSON 5 or better than WHITNEY, Chile I'd need OPRAH's accountants to manage my money. Once in a while, though, they get it right. "There's a soulful urgency to his powerhouse vocal delivery, an honest passion and a lyrical sensitivity..." True. All true. SILAS RECORDS crooner, JESSE POWELL, is also young, gifted and phyne. On his self titled debut CD, young Mr. Powell proves himself adept at delivering quiet storm ballads with an urban edge (including an inspired medley of the ENCHANTMENTS' "Gloria" and "Its You That I Need"). Basically this is an album of love songs where even the uptempo tunes would work equally well sloweddown.Comparisons to JODECI and TEVIN are inevitable but Jesse Powell's self-assured and intelligent choices will also recall the passion and fire of the young DONNY HATHAWAY and MARVIN GAYE as well as the too often overlooked HOWARD HEWETT. A nod must also be given to BABYFACE, who, when at his best, knows just what to do, how far to go... as any lover should. However, unlike another gifted singer whose debut "project" is currently on the charts, Jesse Powell seems to have graciously accepted the Babyface influence rather than imitating certain annoying 'Face-isms. An added surprise and pleasure, though, is Powell's relatively sophisticated contribution as songwriter. In fact, the seven tunes he co-wrote here have a greater cohesiveness, a better flow than those written without Powell's input by more established song scribes such as DARYL SIMMONS. While everything on "Jesse Powell" is appealing (not unlike the singer himself), the stand-out cuts are the driving, Jodeci-esque "All I Need," the Quiet Stormy "If You Like What You See" the grand Pop/R&B ballad, "I Will Be Loving You" and the elegant, understated "Is It Over." None of the songs are masterpieces, but they are well matched with their young master who delivers them masterfully. Truth be told, the boy could sang the proverbial page from the phone book to a real live stone and break its rock solid heart.Look out Tevin, Johnny Gill and DeVante, there's a bright new star rising in the west. And his looks can kill too. THE GREATEST HITS OF A DANCEHALL DIVA Just so you won't think I deliberately tried to make it all a he-thang this time out, I feel compelled to remind you that dancehall diva, JODY WATLEY's "Greatest Hits" (MCA) is well dressed and ready to twirl. Featuring previously unavailable or hard to find remixes by the likes of P.M. DAWN and DAVID MORALES. Watley recently formed her own label and is recording new music for an upcoming album. That might explain why no new material appears here, nor are there any ballad versions of these still appealing chestnuts. 'Tis a pity because until you've heard her stretch out on "Looking For A New Love" or her poignant delivery on "Everything" with only guitar and vocal, you don't realize what a dynamic singer she really is under all those bumpin grooves. That's alright, though. We can still twirl awhile while awaiting the new Watley designer original.

WRITE IT WET, WRITE IT WILD Seems like every other day somebody asks me how to become a writer or how to get into writing. There is only one way, I tell them... write. How to prepare? Read. How to get published? Submit, submit, submit. Well, if the writing demon has taken you on a joyride recently (bless its pointed little head and puckered nipples) then you'll be happy to know that CLEID PRESS is accepting submissions for "Best Lesbian Erotica/Best Gay Erotica," which will "feature the year's steamiest and most thought provoking sexual writing." Deadline for submission is June 1, 1996. For more horny toad info, you can call the Cleid Press offices at (412) 937-1555 or FAX'em at (412) 937-1567. It would be too fierce if the Black Children sent in shit that just worked, wrecked and frayed their nerves as only we can!

HARRIS IS BURNING Finally, The Gentleman returneth! It's about damn time. Currently on the New York Times' bestseller list with his first hardback fiction novel after two extremely successful trade paperbacks (INVISIBLE LIFE and JUST AS I AM) about the



JODY WATLEY

con-
voluted lives of some
middle to upper middle class
Black upwardly mobile and sometimes
sexually conflicted individuals, novelist E.
LYNN HARRIS brings us a fresh set of characters and
concerns with his latest, AND THIS TOO SHALL PASS.
All this made him THE perfect candidate for a certain
neeeeeeeeeuh! and deeeeeuh! young lady's perusal. "I want to read
about Black people," she proclaimed (demanded?) and I want to read
about what's going on now." Well, its hard to be more blunt or specific
than that. But you know how Moms are. And mine didn't beat around the
bush when I asked her what kind of books I should look for for her, having
only recently discovered that she tremendously enjoyed reading novels Christ-
mas before last when she devoured a TONI MORRISON, a WALTER MOSLEY,
and a RITA MAE BROWN all in less than two weeks. She went on to comment that
she only wanted me to send her books by and about Black people because, "I work
with white people every day, see'em on TV all the time...I get tired of them. When I
read, I want to read about Black people." It is now, of course, a foregone conclusion that
I must send Miss Mother a copy of E. Lynn Harris' latest novel, AND THIS TOO SHALL
PASS. While the novel deals with contemporary themes and issues ranging from the plight
of African American males in an environment hostile to our growth and advancement unless
we're supermen, to the pressures of being a competitive African American female profession-
al; it also deals head on with an issue of increasing importance now that the religious com-
munity no longer commands center stage diva attention... where fits in faith? Harris smartly
grapples with this difficult question in the contemporary sense by using likable and successful
Black middle class folk we probably either know or have some sense of. The protagonist, our
hero, our good guy, Zurich Thurgood Robinson, a 28-ish 6'4", 225 pound dreamboat of a quar-
terback for the NFL expansion team, the Chicago Cougars, is at first blush too good to be true.
Add to it that he's been practicing abstinence for a few years and he seems like some silly fanta-
sy. Then again, yours truly will hit the three year Little Mister Abstinence mark in July. And I've
found out recently that I am not alone. Hmmmmmm. Anyway, Zurich's woes begin right after
the thrilling news that he's the Cougar's starter for the first national game. Overwhelmed by his
success, he allows himself to be seduced by pretty, needy and scheming newscaster, Mia, into
having dinner.When Mia finally gets him alone, however, her plan goes awry, sending her into
a tailspin in which, after her drunken and humiliating flight from a thoroughly confused
Zurich, Mia is brutalized and raped. In a moment of confusion she pins the assault on
Zurich. Zurich calls in Tamela, a terrific (if frustrated) Black lawyer from a top flight law
firm to handle the case. Meanwhile Zurich also develops a platonic relationship with Sean,
the gay sportswriter who falls for Zurich but, having been hurt himself, keeps his feel-
ings for the football star tucked away even after getting Our Hero to confide that he's
still mourning the passing of his gay twin brother. We follow Zurich, Sean, Tamela
and Mia through their trials and tribulations, all ultimately unriddled by Zurich's
down home, scripture quoting and hellafied cook of a grandmother who raised
him, Mama Cee. The moral, finally, is that with a little faith, no obstacle is
insurmountable, no matter how big a star you think you are. No matter how
deep your darkest secrets. No matter how hurt you've been. No matter
what religion. No matter what lifestyle. No matter what. No matter.
Just give yourself some faith and everything will be alright. And so
it is that the simple faiths in the little things like friendships,
truth, honesty and justice provide the safety net of Harris'
characters. Yes, they're Buppies, but cut them and do
they not bleed, too? Slash their Beemers' tires and
do they not hiss? Does not their HALL-
MARK card received make them
remiss? And to his credit,
all Harris'
char-
acters know it. That the
characters have what some would
consider to be old fashioned values like
humility, self-determination and pride in a job
well done may seem anachronistic in a contemporary
setting and even downright naive in a world constantly
bombarding us with how enjoyable, easy and rewarding it is to
indulge in the very worst of human nature. I suspect that some of
the contempt sure to be leveled at Zurich may actually be envy in dis-
guise. Virtue is amorphous and ethereal. Self indulgence is tasty, tangi-
ble, invested with an illusory palpability. To walk gracefully with faith seems
an unbearable unreasonable burden when the individual player typically tears
down the backboard or spikes the ball after a successful team effort and is, in
turn, rewarded with applause and crowd adulation. What Harris shows us through
Zurich is that his unshakable strength comes (as ours could and should) from an
unshakable faith and values system. Even through the fear and pressure of a false rape
charge, Zurich's faith remained intact and ever at his side, just like Mama Cee. Secure
in this untouchable thang called faith, he finally faces the deepest darkest fear, certain that
the lamp within will guide him to that great bright love. With faith, the darkness is shal-
lowed. Its just a cloud on the sunniest day. And this too shall pass.
Well, my darlins, I want to wish you much happiness and warmth and thrill upon thrill
upon...pennies.

Faith. Peace .Outie.

E. LYNN HARRIS

Splash!: Sisterella's wicked, wonderful Diva Yvette Cason

by Alexander Thompson

Think Diana Ross. Add some Whitney Houston vocaltude. Throw in the sexuality of Naomi Campbell. To this stir in the acting chops of Angela Bassett. And finally add the charm of the Garden of Eden's serpent and you've got Yvette Cason, a major star-in-the-making whose proving she's at her best when she's being bad as the wicked, wonderful diva stepmother in the all new Michael Jackson-produced r&b/pop musical Sisterella, currently knocking 'em dead with hootiful delight in the sold out pre-Broadway tryout at the Pasadena Playhouse.

You know you're in for a good time in the theatre when the leading lady strolls sensually across the stage in a black gown with a nine foot train and a veil covering her lovely, lascivious face singing 'I Got The Money'. This time—and this happens once in a lifetime—all of L. A.'s critics got it right. The show has given birth to a bonafide new star. Yvette Cason. In eight fabulous shows a week she holds the audience in the itchy palms of her tiny, greedy hands.

The 1.5 million dollar musical is lavish (as any Michael Jackson show should be), the sets are lush (no doubt patterned after Michael's own living room), and the costumes are to die for (surely from Michael's 'other' closet). And Miss Yvette is 'the' stepmother to end all stepmothers. She sings, she dances, and she brews delightful trouble like a MacBethean witch with new-and-improved drag.

Ms. Cason's 'Dahlia' unfolds like a piss-elegant black rose, with each petal revealing a deeper level of tasty nastiness. On stage this actress dominates every scene she's in. She toys and plays with the audience with good, classy dick-biting foreplay, and when she's not on stage, we want her to come back and bite us some more.

Sisterella is the hip-hop, MTV, nubian version of the blond, blue-eyed ashes-to-castle Grimm's projection of Charles and Di if Di cleaned chimneys and Charles had sex appeal. But this Cinderella is all about Miss Step Mother, a woman who not only doesn't understand her children, but really doesn't give a shit. To her way of thinking all three of her girls are stupid, simple and sub-Diva.

Most importantly (to her) Miss Mother wants it all—and gets it as good as she gives.

Yvette Cason. Remember the name. Girlfriend will be one of those stars the children will be reading about.

Oh, and by the way, everybody else in the show was good too.

photos by Craig Schwartz

photo by ron singleton

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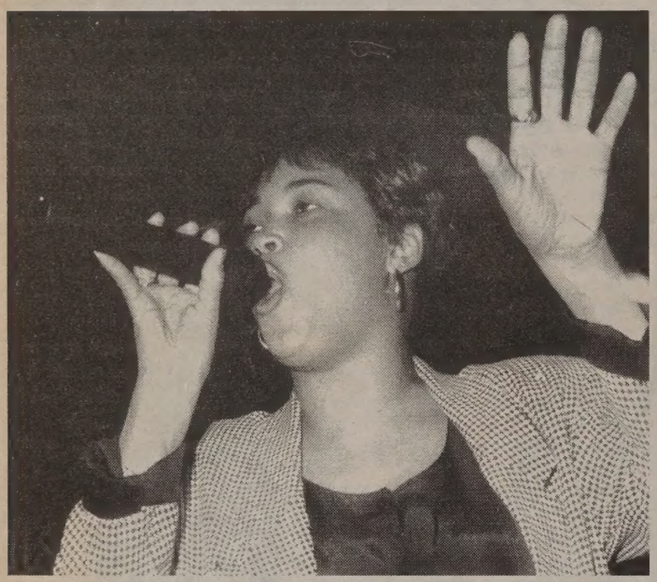
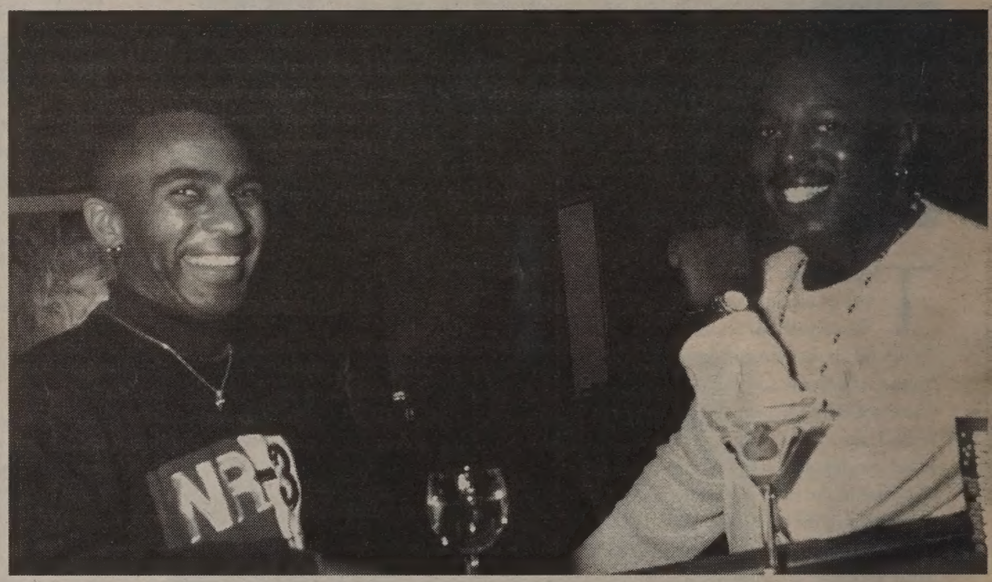
Live from Atlanta

THE BEST SAX I EVER HAD

by Lynwoodt Jenkins, Atlanta Correspondent





Living in Hotlanta, as most visitors have called it, is truly an adventure worth experiencing. Filled with varied shades, shapes and sizes of tasty and desirable brothers, it is a buffet of sorts, for those seeking a full course "masculine" meal. Whether you crave chocolate, cocoa, caramel or barbecue black, we have them in abundance!

Now that I have your attention, I'm sure you would like to know where to find these (Mmm Mmmm good) brothers, right? Well, of course you could always cruise our infamous park, ride the strips (if you have money to spare), or you could wait for that fairytale encounter across a crowded room. But, if cruising ain't your thang (anymore, that is) and you don't want to be seen driving the strip in a rental car, or you don't believe in fairytales since you fell in love and broke up the first two times, then you probably should visit the new jazz, rhythm and blues nightclub that's taken Atlanta by storm.

Styling and profiling, brothers bump and grind their way into the newly favored night spot, KARATS. Johnnie Culbreath of South Carolina, along with his lover and business partner, Michael Holt of Illinois, have provided a much needed change from the usual; fingersnappin', body sweatin' and booty shakin' establishments that are in excess.

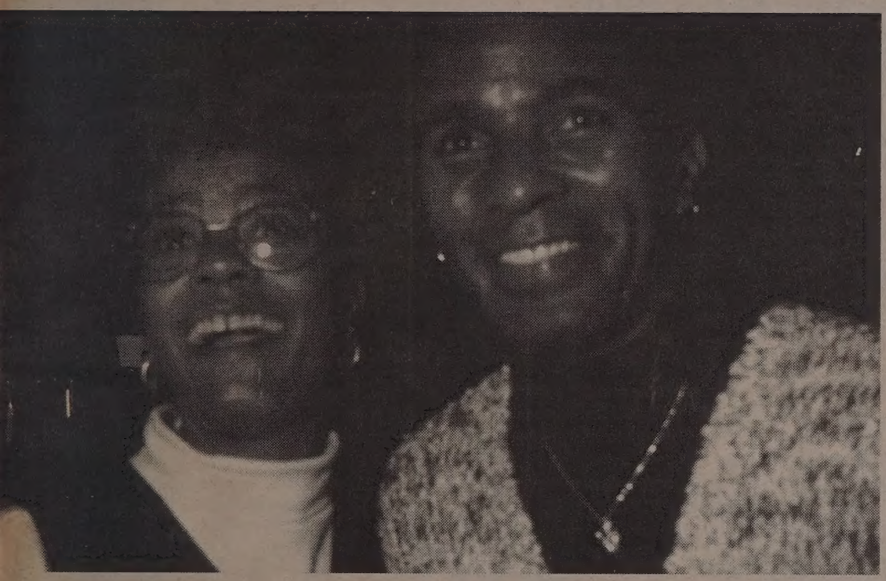
If you missed the grand opening back in October, don't fret. The good times continues five days a week, Wednesday through Sundays. Fun begins with a card party on Wednesdays, Open Mike Night on Thursdays, and live talent performing all weekend long. Sophisticated and sociable, Karats caters to the gay, lesbian, transsexual, transgendered, and even the heterosexual communities. Although when Johnnie loosely mentioned the word, "heterosexuals," I was surprised. Very few straight men would endeavor the social circles of a predominately gay club, I thought. In fact, show me a straight man who likes to party at gay clubs, and I'll introduce him to a friend who's in the market for a new husband. Speaking of which, as a married man, I had been disappointed to find that, there were no places that my significant brother and I could go for an exciting and romantic evening. That is, until now.

Dressed to impress, I found my car keys and rewarded Sunshine (my pet name for him) with a kiss for looking so fine. Leaving home, we conversed on the way there, hoping that the new jazz club would prove as fabulous as the gay grapevine had proclaimed.

Relieved, we arrived at 511 Peachtree Street, N.E., to find available parking across the street from the club. So far, so good, I thought. As we entered, we were cheerfully greeted by a lovely woman collecting the reasonable admission of seven dollars. We later found out that the Diva at the door was Johnnie's mother. Now that's what true family is about, I told my baby, as he admired the beautiful collection of art that hung on the walls.

The atmosphere was perfect. There were tables aligning the right side of the wall with candles on each, accented by soft lights just above the turned heads noting our arrival. Naturally, I gave them the, "Yes, we're a couple" look, to avoid any confusion. On the left side of the club was the bar. Slightly conservative, I knew my baby wouldn't want anything even before I inquired, but of course, I paused and purchased a drink for myself. "Vodka and orange juice, please," I told the bartender as she smiled and began her routine of pouring, mixing and stirring. I paid for my drink before tasting it, hoping I wouldn't regret the tip I left. As well as you know, watered down drinks can ruin the best of moods. Tilting my glass and taking a curious sip, I knew right away I would like the place.

Located on the far end of the club was the immaculately clean bathroom(s), a small, but romantic lounge area complete with sofa, end table and floral arrangement, as



<<<: PERFORMER MARY GRIFFIN

<<: JOHNNIE CULBREATH AND SBC ATLANTA
CORRESPONDENT LYNWOODT JENKINS

<: CO-OWNER JOHNNIE CULBREATH AND HIS MOM

well as the dance floor and elevated stage. Moving through the crowd of silk, linen, rayon and cotton clad brothers, we didn't find an available table, but we did find a comfortable spot for the soon to be seen and heard live entertainment. We had noticed in the marque window that Mary Griffin of New Orleans would be performing that weekend. I hadn't heard of her prior to Karats, and we had missed her first show, but I was positive that she would be a listening pleasure. I was right.

Suddenly, stage lights appeared, and standing approximately five feet eight inches in a little black dress and matching heels, Ms. Griffin worked the crowd into a frenzy. Lending her vocal talents to songs that ran the Oleta Adams/Chaka Khan gamut, "the children" received her with thunderous applause. Flawless in delivery, she sang, and sang, and sang, and then sang some more.

Drinking shooters between songs, Mary shared her wit and sense of humor as she implied rather nonchalantly that she was heterosexual. But that the more she drank the more she wanted to change her mind—she said. The room rocked with laughter. There was even a few shouts of "Work!" and a couple of finger snaps that were purposefully camouflaged in the noise. And, a very infatuated sister, who obviously appreciated Mary's hour glass figure and dark beauty, took it upon herself and bought Mary's next shot. Just when we thought it couldn't get any better, Mary said it was time for her to walk the bar.

Clearing the bar for her ready-made catwalk, Johnnie and another gentleman helped her up as she delivered a show stopping rendition of Tina Turner's "Proud Mary." A crowd pleaser, but seemingly exhausted, Mary reluctantly informed us that it was time for her to go. Thanking her audience, as well as owners Johnnie and Michael, Mary collected the abundance of tips she had received and belted out her last number, the Jennifer Holiday classic, "And I am Telling You." Needless to say, she tore the roof off the place. As she threw kisses and paused gracefully to thank her admirers, Mary then made a swift exit to her dressing room.

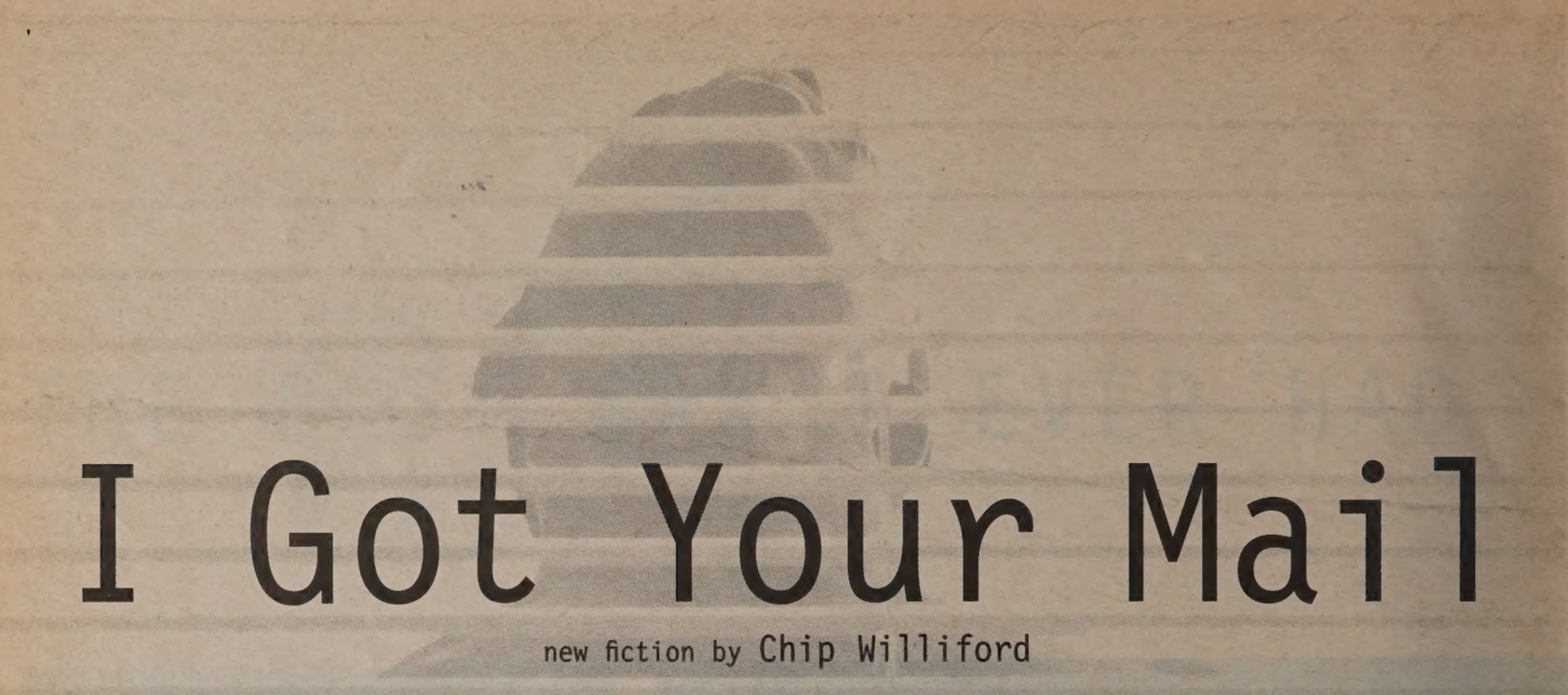
Karats is definitely the place to be, I thought. Speaking with Johnnie, I expressed my appreciation for supplying the black gay population of Atlanta with a classy alternative. Smiling, I was sure he knew that he was sitting on a gold mine.

Recovering from Mary's electric performance, the crowd continued to buzz as jazz music filtered the air, and brothers and sisters continued to enjoy the evening. Seduced by the energy, everyone seemed a bit more friendly as they slowly, but surely, gravitated toward each other. Caught in a rapture of sorts, even Sunshine finally had a cocktail and loosened up a bit. I guess you could say he was inspired. I had whispered sweet somethings in his ear of what I had planned once we got home. Between the drinks, the soft lights, and the soothing music, it provided for a very promising night. The last thing I remembered before falling asleep was, it was the best sax I ever had...

the air caressed
his naked form
as i admired
his pitch and tone

he wet his lips
blew a kiss
and seduced me
with a sigh and moan

i caught his rhythm
breathed on key
and we danced
to a be-bop melody



I Got Your Mail

new fiction by Chip Williford

Lovemaking was not that great last night, in fact it hasn't been that great in a while, especially since Todd has been working relentlessly on his new business. He's been going into the office every morning at 7am and coming home around 9pm. He'll even go in on the weekends for 5 to 6 hours. Although I miss having him around and accessible during the early evenings and especially when I have an urge for passion in the middle of the day, I've been very supportive and understanding with his recent schedule and ambition to start and run his own construction company. I know that Global Construction had been his dream since he was a boy building houses with his tonka trucks and blocks while I was playing house with my big sister's Ken doll under my imaginary tent that I created out of the multi-colored flowered quilt that covered my twin bed.

Adjusting and making sacrifices haven't been easy for either of us, but we manage, because we both know that someday we'll be able to look back on these times and say 'we did it!' I have faith in Todd and I know that he'll do whatever it takes to make a success of the business and like I always say, behind every successful man is a man that makes him feel successful. So when he comes home I normally pour him a stiff drink before dinner and listen to his staffing problems and stories of near disasters turning into miraculous saves, and if he's not totally exhausted, I initiate a little romance, which was exactly what I had planned for tonight.

The entire sky was amazingly colored by the deepest purple and the darkest orange sacrificing only the ominous slithering moon which greeted the night and painted another spectacular sunset as I put on the red lace bikinis. Laying on the bed, strumming my body, listening to Phyllis Hyman's I Refuse To Be Lonely CD, I visualized Todd entering the room wearing but the scent of Gendarme and a red bath towel loosely wrapped around his fine chocolate ass and standing in front of the blazing fireplace with his tongue dragging across the inner part of his mouth. Then he'll begin to gently bite and suck his full and shapely lips as his pulsating fingers slither down his bulging pecks to circle his navel while glazing in my eyes because he undoubtedly really wants some of my tight ass...

Suddenly the telephone rang and interrupted the mirage. Damn. It was Todd calling to tell me that he'll be stuck at the office for another 3 or 4 hrs. Instantly and regretfully I could identify with the lonely idle log in the fireplace just waiting to be lit.

I put on some loose sweats, poured a glass of cabernet and started back toward the bedroom when the phone rang. Thinking it was Todd calling back to tell me that he was coming home after all, I rushed to answer it with the hint of seduction in my voice.

"Hello?"

I was a bit disappointed that it wasn't the deep soft voice with a strong Jamaican accent of Todd but the voice of Vance, my best friend, pleading with me above the screams of Ms. Patti LaBelle's *I'm A Winner.*

"Warren, please, go out with me! I have something very important that I have to tell you. Please Warren. I promise we'll just have one drink." He repeated.

"Hell, why not? " I said, for the curiosity was killing me and
besides, I thought about Todd working late again tonight and me being alone and un-ignited just like the log in the fireplace.

"I'll meet you at karats in 30 minutes " I added as I hung up the phone. It took all of five minutes to put on a body shirt and my snug black jeans, turn off the stereo, the lights, grab my bomber jacket and dart out the door.

I met Vance in the parking lot of Atlanta's hot new black gay jazz club where, as soon as we walked in, we saw Ron and Stan. Ron greeted us both with a hug and told us that they were giving Kenny a surprise party for his thirtieth birthday next month.

After I committed to attend the sure-to-be gala affair, Vance and I made our way toward the rear of the club stopping every few steps to speak to friends and associates I hadn't seen in a while.

"What do you want to drink?" Vance asked.

Elijah Craig over ice" I said while looking around at all the faces.

"Come with me to the bar", he insisted. After making our way back through the crowd, resting our hands on the bar I asked "So, what's up? What do you have to tell me that would required such a spontaneous summons this evening? "

Vance looked at me, raising his eyebrow, and said very mysteriously, "I'll tell you after we get our drinks!.. Bartender, two Elijah Craigs' please, one over ice, one straight up", he ordered.

Finally the drinks came and suddenly Vance turned to me and smiled this humongous smile. "Dwayne and I are buying a house. The loan should close in three weeks!"

"What? That's great!" I shouted with excitement, " I'll pay for the drinks because you're going to need all your pennies to pay for the mortgage". I slammed a twenty on the bar and told the bartender to pour us another round of drinks in ten and keep the change.

I was extremely happy to hear Vance's news and to see his bright, beautiful smile light up his face, creating a sensational glow that illuminated everything and everyone around him.

I reflected back on my own experience, remembering when that very glow surrounded me when Todd moved in with me six years ago into the drafty old two story veranda home that my late godfather left me. We had so much fun redecorating each room, picking the colors, the artwork, the furniture and shopping for the fixtures and the artifacts we'd collected throughout our travels. That time for Todd and I was so special. We knew that even our morning breath would stay sweet and fresh forever as our love, passion and excitement of being together would last forever, thinking nothing would ever change.

We had finished our drinks just before the bartender set down the second round. Vance spotted a co-worker standing in the rear, so he grabbed his drink, clicked it with mine and walked toward the rear to speak to his co-worker while I stayed standing by the bar glancing around noticing that there were quite a few good looking men. Of course they were nice to look at but I knew that I had my baby at home and there was no one in this bar that could even compare.

After I had finished my drink I found Vance in the heart of the club still talking to his co-worker and told him that I was leaving. I congratulated him again and kissed him on his cheek as I turned toward the front.

Just as I approached the door a hand grabbed mine "Oh ,you shouldn't leave yet," a deep voice belonging to a very attractive man said.

"And why shouldn't I leave yet?" I questioned, looking down at the hand that held mine and then into the eyes."

"Because I haven't had the pleasure of meeting you yet," he answered with a sexy grin on his face.

Many words came to mind as to what I should say to avoid the opportunity ripe for trouble, however, none made it past the tip of my tongue.

"My name is John " he said quickly, looking at me with a very please-to-meet you smile.

"I'm Warren" I replied. He smiled, blushed, and grinned.

Somehow we began to talk. Before I knew it 4:30 had rolled around and the club was preparing to close. Without me noticing almost everyone had left, including Vance.

John invited me to get something to eat at the International House of Pancakes down the street but I quickly declined and started toward the door. During my moment of preoccupation—thinking of what I was going to tell my baby who I was sure was home waiting for me—John suddenly grabbed me and gently kissed my lips as he discreetly slipped his number in my outside jacket pocket.

When I arrived home everything was dark and quiet. I peeled off my clothes, said my prayers and slid into bed snuggling close to my sleeping baby while thinking about the sexy man I had just met in the club as I closed my eyes and entered into dreamland.....

The next morning was a cold and dreary Saturday and was rivaled only by Todd's attitude. He hardly said ten words to me before he left for the office to work on that important project that's been keeping him late almost every night for the past three weeks. I really wasn't sure if his aloofness was because of the long hours he'd been putting in lately at the office or if he was a little ticked that I was out so late last night which would be kind of cute but so unlike him.

The curiosity was killing me so I had decided to surprise Todd by showing up at his office and taking him to his favorite Italian restaurant for lunch and to see if there were issues that we needed to discuss.

I got a haircut before making the lunch reservation and arrived at his office at 11am. To my surprise the front door was locked, the lights were out and the morning mail was still in the mailbox. I didn't know what to make of this but I sure was going to damn well find out.

I went home and immediately paged him. He called me back in the normal 20 minutes.

"Hey, what's up ?" He said hurriedly.

"What time do you think you'll be home?" I answered.

"Baby, I don't know. This proposal is taking more time than I anticipated. I don't know when I'll be leaving the office. I'll call you later, okay?"

"Yeah, sure," I said angrily as I hung up the phone.

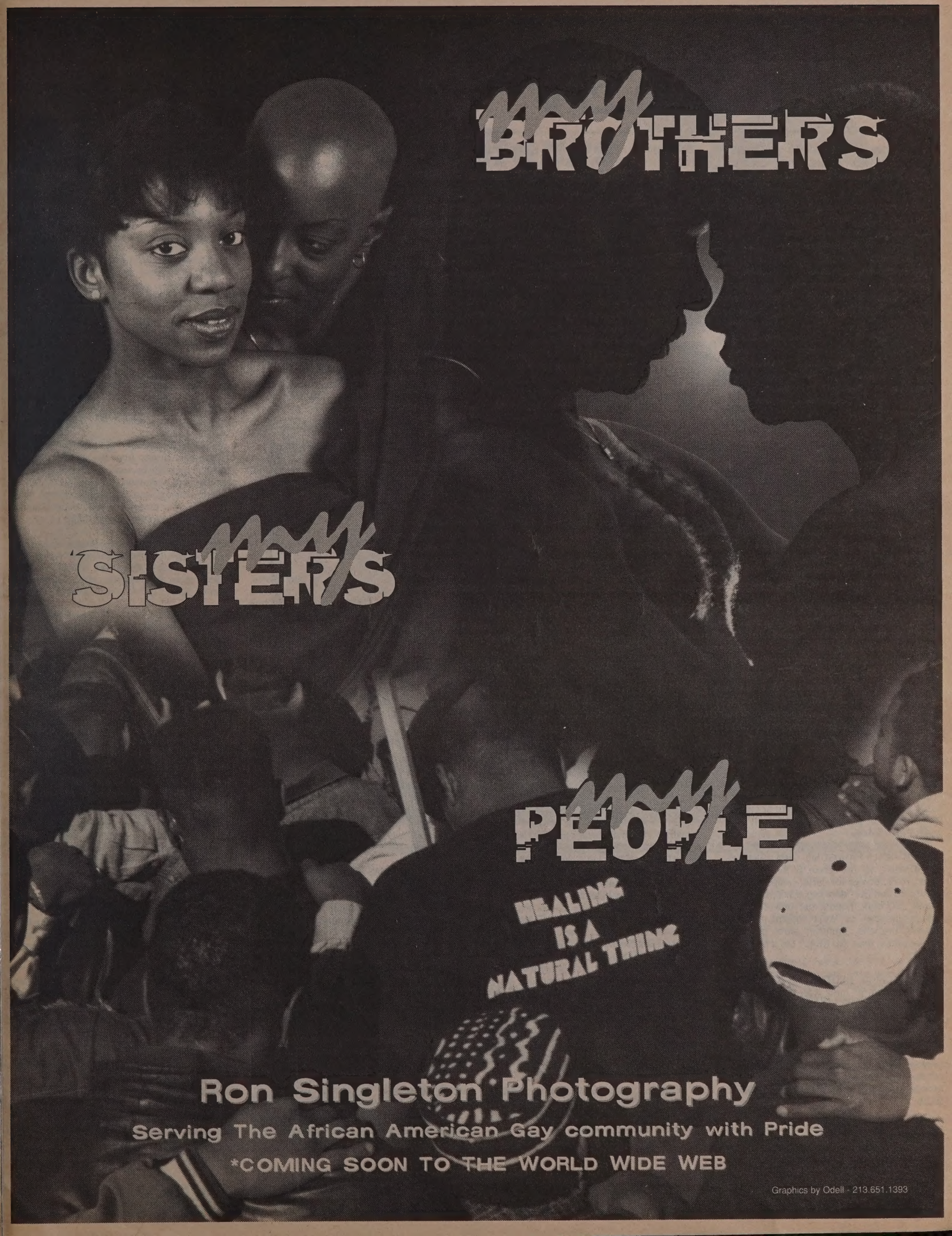
Todd didn't call back before he finally came home around 4pm with roses in his hands and a boyish smile on his face. I took the roses from his hand and put them in the vase while Todd put on Salina's *I Could Fall In Love* CD and lit a candle placing it on the headboard of our king size bed.

I put on the red lace bikinis.

We had very little conversation as we indulged in uninhibited foreplay and hot sweaty sex for hours. He felt so damn good as he moved inside of me. And I gave as good as I got.

When we were finished, just before I blew out the candle, I leaned over and kissed his forehead, looked straight into his eyes and whispered "I got your mail."

I gently placed the office mail on his chest and watched his big beautiful grey eyes turn shamefully dull. Feeling his heart skip a beat as he released a heavy lingering sigh, I discovered that his breath was sour, so I turned away and drifted off to sleep.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ATTENTION GAY AFRICANS. I can't be the only gay African in L.A., let alone North America! 32 yr. old professional Black man from East Africa would like to get in touch with other gay Africans in the U.S. to share experiences and for friendship. Box # 1426

VERY CUTE, VERY ORAL, YOUNG, FIT, HIV NEGATIVE BLACK MAN! Looking 4 committed/non-committed relationship. U.B. healthy, in good shape, single/couple/or...? Any race with a constant need to blow off some steam! My motto: "If it's not all over your face...it souldn't be in your mouth!" Box # 1475

GBM, 20, 5' 11", 155 LBS., HANDSOME WITH LIGHT SKIN, very outgoing and independent, looking for Black male, age 20-25, 6 feet or taller, for friendship and possible relationship. Please, no fems. Serious callers only. Box # 1443

TALL, HANDSOME GBM ISO SAME UB honest with no games, drugs or drink. Just good fun. I am 35 y.o., 6' 4", 204 lbs., with a 'stache. No fats, fems or bullshit (games). Box # 1658

DARK GBM, 27 YRS. OLD, 6' 2", 210 LBS. WELL HUNG TOP. Great body, HIV-. You be well hung versatile 21-35 clean Black men only. No games. Be honest, HIV-. GOOD TIMES AND NASTY SEX. PLEASE, DISCREET ONLY. GET AT ME. Box # 1013

VERY HANDSOME HIV- BGM. Great personality, mid-20's, 6' 1", 175 lbs., 9 hot cut inches, in search of goodlooking White or Latino, 25-40, HIV-, for good times and sex. It's all good. Box # 1446

GOT 2B REAL! HANDSOME GBM (GINGERBREADMAN), 35, red-brown, 5' 9", 145 lbs., artist, HIV?. Enjoys life, arts, people, music (Snoop To Jessye), dancing, travel, bed (versatile). ISO dark, handsome, GBM (African, African-American or West Indian), mature (23-37), in-shape, creative, alive, passionate, vice-less, doer. RU REAL? Let's talk. Box # 1391

GOOD LOOKING BROTHER BUILT LIKE A FOOTBALL PLAYER hung long and thick 10+ seek other big tool dudes for safe good times. Box # 1444

WANTED: TALL, DARK AND HANDSOME BROTHER. I'm 32, 5' 9", 165 lbs., light complexion, attractive, muscular. ISO serious-minded, masculine, muscular BLK man for friendship and possible relationship. Box # 2128

HOT ROMANTIC BIBM (NEW TO L.A. FROM CHICAGO) VGL 5' 8", 145 LBS., 29 yrs., slim, masculine, discreet—into dancing, sports, workouts, talks and hot fun. Seeks friends of any race and someone that is very slim and under 35 yrs., to date. UB open-minded, kind, intelligent, well-rounded and, if to date, a bottom or versatile. Lee. Box # 4060

HANDSOME, SEXY, HOT ITALIAN MALE 5' 9", 150 lbs., hazel eyes, dark hair, moustache, 30 y.o. bottom seeks handsome muscular slim Black male whose romantic, sensual, loving and aggressive for possible lover. You won't be disappointed. Willing to relocate for the right guy. Box # 2058

I AM TALL, BROWN AND HANDSOME. I am 50 years old. I seek an Africentric Brother not hung up on age. If you are sincere and honest, give me a call. Box # 2144

TLC SPECIAL FOR GENTLE BM FROM ONE OF THE NICEST, SWEETEST, GENTLEST GM'S IN L.A. Me: creative, artistic, kind, intelligent, romantic, non-smoking, drug-free professional with mediterranean complexion, tall, slender, in-shape HIV-, 51. Interests include the arts, photography, travel, cooking. UB slender, or average built, interested in meeting. Box # 1439

VERY HANDSOME BLONDE/BLUE-EYED GWM BOTTOM, great body and BB; seeks masculine, aggressive and very well-hung Black Top. I'm very sexual and sensual; love it hot/hard or long/slow. Dark, over 40 and hung HUGE A+++! My mouth and ass NEVER disappoint. Box # 1080

TOP GBM, 33, 5' 8", 160 LBS. 9" HANDSOME. You: 24+ in shape, attractive light skin bottom, looking for companion and possible relationship. Box # 4040

ATTRACTIVE GWM BOTTOM, 38, 5' 10", 163 LBS., VERY ORAL, big round tight butt, intelligent, affectionate professional with a sense of humor, seeks GBM top, 30-45, muscular and macho, goal-oriented, (hung big and uncut A+). I seek and give honesty, good sex and true affection. Box # 3015

AGGRESSIVE, DOMINANT TOP WANTED FOR SOME HOT ACTION. Any race or age. I'm Italian, 45, 6', football player build. Box # 4094

FAT BOTTOM GUYS. Let's scream the night away on, around and outside the bed. Race open. Age open. HIV-. I'm 6', 240 lbs. Mid-Wilshire area. Box # 1352

FUN LOVING MEDIUM BUILD ITALIAN MALE who loves nature, entertainment and togetherness. ISO a black male without a giant ego who enjoys the simple pleasures of life and loving. Be forewarned; I spoil my lover with love, caring and kindness, but believe it's a two-way street. Love, Tony. Box # 4077

EXHALE ON THIS: Handsome, intelligent BM, 35, into music, art, literature, film, seeks culturally literate man, any race, who is emotionally available and not afraid of real intimacy. I'm the one. Box # 1390

31 YEAR OLD BLACK MALE TOP IN SEARCH OF BLACK BOTTOM who wants to try out 6 1/2". Masculine men only. Dreadlocks, muscular men A+. Box # 1386

WHERE ARE THE REAL MEN? Look no more. 100% macho, butch, masculine, straight acting. 6' 2", 185 lbs. of pure Latin man. In search of Black men who offer the same characteristics. I am versatile but want to find out more about being at the bottom. No sissy or wimp here. All others need not respond. You had the rest, now go for the best. Box # 2152

TOP GBM, 5' 8", 190 LBS., 34, LOOKING FOR BOTTOM WHITE MALES, 18-45. Looks unimportant. Must be discreet. Long Beach or South L.A. a plus. 8 1/2" dick to please. No fems. Box # 2194

BOTTOM BOY WANTED BY ATTRACTIVE, BIG DICK GBM, 25 years old, in-shape. Looking for hot, in-shape white and latin men who can take long, deep sessions. In-shape men only. Box # 1395

LOOKING FOR A LOVE TO CALL MY OWN IN 1996. I am a slender, tall, top, gay black male, age 31, 6' 1", 170 lbs. ISO black or

Puerto Rican, same height and weight, between the ages of 31-39 only. No fems. Let's talk and date first. Box # 1380

WGM ISO MICHAEL JORDAN, LL COOL J, BO JACKSON TYPE. I'm 5' 7", 140 lbs., hairy, shaved head, great smile. I like my man to be sensitive, caring, loving, strong mentally & emotionally, romantic, likes to kiss, hold hands, fondle, caress, foreplay. Into sports, working out, movies, dining out, weekend trips, beach, T.V., talking and gazing into each other's eyes. Penis size not important, top or bottom not important. HIV+ a plus. Sounds all good? Let's make a date! Box # 1450

HANDSOME, INTELLIGENT, MASCULINE, 27 YEAR OLD, seeking very masculine dark man, in shape and well-endowed. Should be intelligent but not arrogant. Hairiness a Plus! Box # 1382

WHAT DO WE HAVE IN COMMON besides being hung over-average and good looking? Box # 1378

HANDSOME, ROMANTIC BLACK PASSIONATE TOP MAN. Black male, 6'1, 190 lbs., looking for a hot Black man with nice body who wants really nice, warm and passionate love made to him. Box # 1026

SEXY BM, 27, MASCULINE, MATURE, MUSCULAR, VERSATILE, 5' 8", 150 lbs., seeks another well-endowed Bi or GM, versatile or bottom, between 25-45 for sexcapade and friendship. Masculine, mature, muscular only need apply. Box # 2250

TAKE ME. BG MASCULINE BOTTOM. I am a Black male 39 years old. Looking for a good-looking, aggressive black male top between 25-39, well hung, who knows what he's doing with this bottom. I want to meet someone who likes to go to the movies and to spend quality time at home. For I am tired of meeting men in bars. So if you are the one, please let me hear from you. I will answer you back. Box # 2141

VERY HANDSOME CLEAN-CUT WHITE BOY, nice lean build, looking for dark, hung, muscular, Black Top who's ready for just about anything. I'm wild and ready to party. Box # 2147

ATTRACTIVE BLACK MASCULINE MAN, EX-MILITARY, 37 y.o., 5' 10", 165 lbs., slim muscular body, medium brown complexion who prefers being a bottom, seeks masculine, aggressive top Black in-shape brothers who pack 8 1/2 or more of long/thick pipe (and know how to use it), for safe, clean, erotic fun. Hairy A+. Let's talk. Box # 1290

VERY MUSCULAR WHITE DUDE, INCREDIBLY HUNG 12 3/4" x 7 1/2", looking for black studs hung my size or bigger! No B.S.—Serious only. Josh Box # 2123

ATTRACTIVE, STABLE, CREATIVE, GBM MUSICIAN, 6' 1", 150 lbs., 38, honest, caring, affectionate, laid-back, quiet yet strong, masculine and faithful. My passions are acoustic jazz, cultural explorations, laughing, touching, movies, reading, togetherness, tennis and bowling. Seeking a "team player" of similar mind to develop a mutually supportive companionship. Box # 4090

AFRICENTRIC MALE, 6' 2", 30 YEARS OLD. I caress for a man from the Afrikan Diaspora who's melanin is sensual to see, erotic to touch, and a pleasure to taste. A man who is warm, caring, and culturally together! What ever be your pleasure will be mine. Committed or uncommitted. Box # 1458

BOTTOMS ONLY. Buttman loves to ride a firm ass to get it loose with the juice. I'm a Bi BM, 6' 1", 245 lbs., HIV-, and love to take pictures of my artwork. Mid-Wilshire Area. Box # 1397

SWEET, SMART, SEXY, REDBONE PISCES. An artist/performer & hot lover by nature. 31 y.o., 5' 11", 180 lbs., HIV+, versatile, attractive & loving. ISO self-confident, not arrogant BM, over 5' 10", under 6 inches long (it's gotten tight), versatile, exciting and compatible with the above. Box # 1406

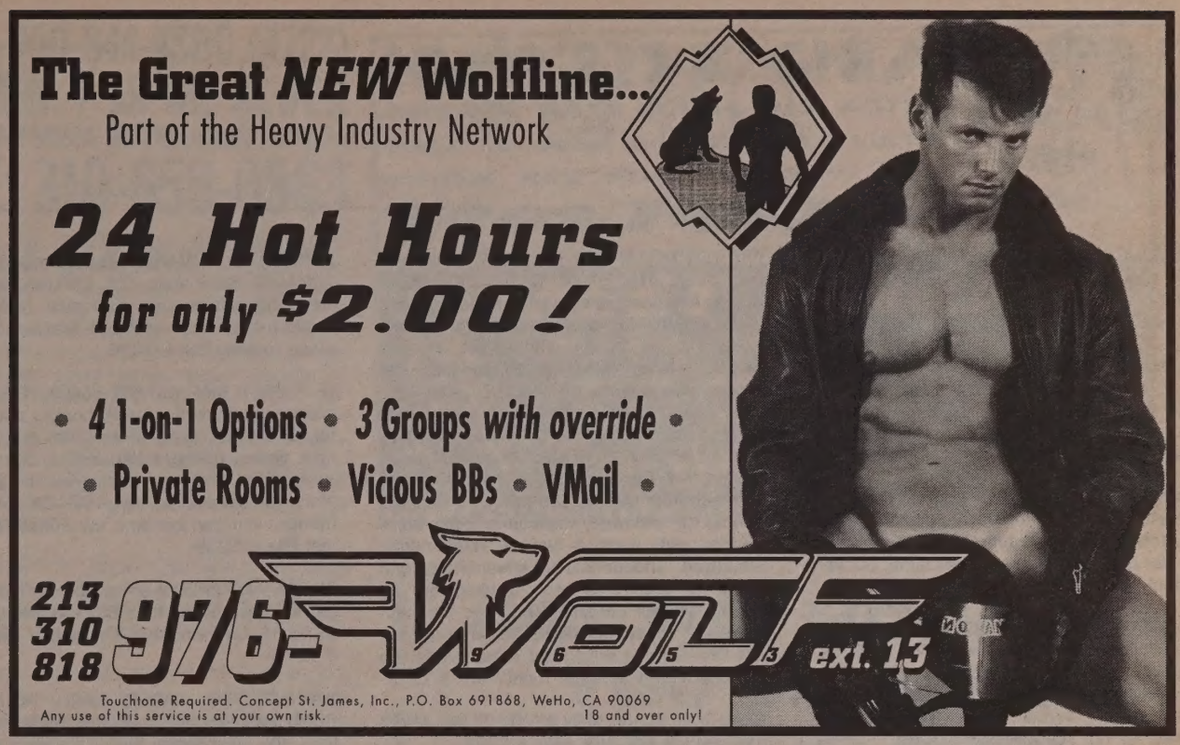
BLACK MALE, 34, 5' 10", 180 LBS., HIV-, NONSMOKER, NO DRUGS. Looking for a Black male close to my build and age for friendship or more. Also must be sexually versatile. Box # 1410

VGL, 34 Y/O, 5' 10", 160 LBS., IN EXCELLENT SHAPE with Mediterranean features (olive skin, dark eyes & dark hair, hairy chest, straight acting, professional, seeking a very special, masculine, straight acting and appearing professional man who values a romantic, monogamous, long-term relationship. He must be healthy, handsome & an honest and aggressive gentleman. Box # 2160

TALL, THIN, GOODLOOKING, BIG DICK BROTHER WANTS SAME. I'm hot for 9 inches or more. You be too. Let's bump and grind. Box # 1405

GBM, 35, 6', 190 LBS., VERY HANDSOME, NICE BUILD, ARTICULATE AND WELL INFORMED seeks African American male 30-45. Must be masculine and professional. Versatile an absolute must. Box # 1459

TOUGH 'N TENDER; ELEGANT 'N FREAKY. Live in the Global LeatherFetish Village w/White Leather GRIOT, 58. Lookin' Great! Feelin' Great! Ready to train 'chosen' New-Century Black Warrior, any age, in a dominant/submissive total LoveStyle. Achieve and receive all benefits and fame that full partnership can Bring. Box #4088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NEW IN TOWN, BRITISH-NIGERIAN young black man, 29 yrs., 5' 7", 8" dick, slim, defined swimmer's body. Seeks other Nigerians, West Africans and other Africans for friendship fun and more. You—between 25-35 yrs., under 6 ft., well built, well hung (over 8"), str8 looking/acting. Top. Box # 2142

BGM, MASCULINE, 6', 190 LBS. LIGHT SKIN BOTTOM ISO warm and masculine BM who will squeeze, caress & excite every inch of my thighs, butt & tummy. Dick size unimportant, but no drugs, fats or fems. Box # 1379

VERY WELL-ENDOWED, VERY ATTRACTIVE, CUT, VERSATILE, HIV-, 25 YEAR OLD BLACK MAN, 6', 170 lbs., great long slim body, great smile, great personality and great sex. ISO HIV-, very well-endowed, very attractive and personable Black men, 25-40, with good bodies (no over-weights) and great sexual abilities (a little on the freaky side is not bad). I am into hot, safe sexual encounters. I am not into games, flakes, fems and/or irresponsibility. Let's hook up soon. You will not be disappointed. Box # 2122

MUSCLE TO MUSCLE. FREAKY RUGGED RUFF STUFF. Hot hairy VGL WM BB, 42, 6', 195 buffed pounds. HIV-, works out/over/on muscular men who can get lowdown and dirty. Into SM, BD. Also, mutual scenes/power exchange with other heavy studs. Pluses: Hairy and big balls. Box # 4088

AGGRESSIVE DOMINANT TOP WANTED FOR SOME HOT ACTION. Any race or age. I'm Italian, 45, 6', football player build. Box # 4087

ROMANTIC, FUN LOVING, SPIRITUAL, GOOD LOOKING, INTELLIGENT, SENSITIVE MAN IN HIS 40'S. Looking for "Mr. Right". Box # 1449

BLK, 39, ROUGHNECK, HIV+ looking for other roughneck HIV+, 28-45. Very muscular, versatile, love to cook, 5' 6"- 6'2". No smoker, drugs, but bud smoker OK! Box # 1398

30ISH CUBAN-AMERICAN MAN-CHILD, 5' 10", 175 lbs., solid, husky build, caramel skin, green eyes, blk hair, thick legs, great ass, non-fem bottom, boyish charm. ISO big dick tops that like to fuck. Long Beach area yea. Box # 2111

ASIAN TREASURE! I am handsome, clean-cut, versatile, sensual, great personality. Let's get together for safe & erotic fun. I'll massage your whole body if UR masculine & smooth. UB HIV-, discreet, 18-35, no games, flakes or drugs. Relax & enjoy. Long Beach area. Box # 2156

WANTED: VERY LARGE, HARD, ROUNDED BUNS with smooth, muscular body, masculine, HIV-, easy-going, for friendship or more. Me: Hispanic, 5' 10", 180 lbs., down-to-earth, athletic body, outdoors, masculine, HIV-, well-endowed. Box # 1341

WANTED: BIG DARK TOP MAN. I'm Japanese, 5' 4", 135 lbs. I'm looking for a Dark Skin GBM Top. Movies, dinner. I want to build a relationship. Box # 1403

2 ATTRACTIVE, WELL-HUNG YOUNG MEN 23 & 19 y.o., In/Out. Looking to perform tag team for any serious persons with finances. A time to remember. Tops and bottoms are welcomed. Call for hot young sex. Box # 2130

YOU'RE NEVER GONNA GET IT!!! Unless you are a masculine, Top, Black male, 25-35, Tall, in-shape, handsome and at least 8 inches. I'm 27, 6', 170 lbs., caramel skin, looking for someone to have fun/sex with. I love the movies and dining out. HIV-, UB2. Box # 1473

VERY ATTRACTIVE LIGHT-SKINNED GBM, 22 Y/O, 5' 8", 155 LBS. Looking 4 pretty boy Tops who have their heads on straight. I'm a down-to-earth, good-looking-straight-appearing kinda brother. Looking for the same. Fine brothers only. Ring me. No disappointments. Box # 4091

T.L.C. FOR SPECIAL GENTLE BM FROM ONE OF THE NICEST, SWEETEST, GENTLEST GM'S IN LA. Me: creative, artistic, intelligent, romantic, non-smoking professional with a mediterranean complexion. I'm tall, slender, in-shape, HIV-. I'm 50 years old. U.B. slender, or average build and interested in meeting. Box # 1417

GWM SEEKING BLACK MUSCLE STUDS TO FUCK MY FACE. Love to deep throat uncut black meat. Bodybuilders A+, uniform men A+. Would love to sharpen your pencil. The bigger the better Box # 3050

19 YEAR OLD BLACK MALE STUDENT ISO a very attractive roughneck, 18-25, for more than sex! Box # 1355

QUE PASA? PUERTORIQUENO DE 21 ANOS, DE ALTURA REGULAR Y CURPO mediano, moreno, busca companero latino masculino, alto, con verga y wevos grande. Me gusta disfruter mucho, afuera y dentro de la cama! Soy sincero, simpatico, decente, y busco alquien con la mismas qualidades! Si quieres harcelo Llama Attora! Box # 4083

ATTRACTIVE DARK SKIN BOTTOM WITH A GREAT SMILE AND ASS. I'm 6' tall, 165 lbs., gymnast. ISO tall, uncut Black or PR tops with a basketball build. Box # 1387

HANDSOME, 5' 9", BROWN HAIR, BLUE EYES, NATURAL LOOKING WHITE MALE M.A. STUDENT who likes the outdoors, movies, great conversation, sensuality. Seeking very masculine, good-looking, fit, 30-35 y.o. Top, caramel skin with similar interest for dating. Box # 1360

HANDSOME WHITE MALE, 36 Y.O., 6' 1", 220 LBS. Dk brown hair, baby blue eyes, muscular. In search of Handsome Black Prince who is a together person, who knows what he likes in life. If you're 28 to 45 yrs. old, over 5' 11", in shape, Top, sincere, let's see if we can hook up. Box # 2149

THIS MASCULINE, ATTRACTIVE, BALD-HEADED BROTHER WANTS TO FUCK AND SUCK YOU ALL NIGHT LONG. I'm 5' 10", 165 lbs., in shape. If you're real hot, call me. Box # 1185

HOPELESSLY ROMANTIC GBM, 32, 6' 1", 145 LBS., fun-loving and caring. Enjoys quiet romantic nights and cuddling. Seeks serious-minded individual for fun, friendship and/or possible relationship. Box # 1186

Man meEt

SEEKING HANDSOME, GBM BODY-BUILDER, 30, WHOSE AD WAS IN THE SPRING EDITION OF SBC. You were box #4029. I'm 29, GBM, masculine, 5' 10", 185 lbs, and also work out. If you hook up with me, you would not have to settle. Box # 4070

ISO LONG(ISH?) HAIRED WHITE MALE. Me: Non-stereotypical Black Male Top. Tall, masculine, nice looking, romantic, monogamous, emotionally available, drug-drink-smoke-free, spiritual, professional. Regular guy into sports, music, people, intimacy. Physical performance not required. Age, type open. Prefer HIV-, cut, smooth, masculine, but very open! Box # 4067

SUBMISSIVE GBM ISO DOMINANT GWM. Hi, I'm Curtis, 5' 11", 40 yrs., HIV+, 155 lbs., ISO take-charge top to put me on my knees, to service boots, feet, cock, ass, pits...his way! (Heavy verbal abuse A+). Be sane, kinky, N2 hot scenes. Box # 2192

BOTTOM ISO TOP BLK MAN. Me: Italian, 40, 5' 2", 130 lbs., well built, light brown hair, green eyes. You: Blk, total top who likes to have his dick sucked and loves to fuck. Well-endowed a must. Ciao. Box # 1351

XTREMELY MASCULINE BLACK MALE—VERY ATTRACTIVE, 28 y.o., 6', 190 lbs. Well built, employed and very independent. ISO Latin/Hispanic Cholo type with similar characteristics, for definite possible relationship. Should be HIV+ and, like me, healthy & versatile. Outy!! Box # 1051

HIP-HOP LOVERS. BAGGY CLOTHES HOMEBOY ONLY. WHAT'S UP! I'm 24. 5' 8", 150, gay Japanese male N2 hip-hop music n' clothing, movies, gym. UB young, masculine, attractive. Lorenz Tate type A+ (not nec.) Box # 1046

HANDSOME & ROMANTIC TOP. A 30 years old Brother, 6 ft., 165 lbs., HIV-, is seeking a romantic Brother in his 30's for candle light dinners, theater, quiet evenings of invigorating conversation and much more. Box # 2028

33 Y.O. SLIM HUNG HORNY MEXICAN W/PARTNER seeks other Latin couples or singles for friendship & fun. Must be handsome, masculine, in-shape, HIV- & between 21-36. Box # 2047

GWM, 49, PROFESSIONAL, FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT, ISO self-supporting, 18-50, for communication, friendship, fun and adventure. Relationship a possibility. Ethnic a plus, humor a must. Reply, don't be shy. Giving and taking oral action, massage and cuddling important. Box # 4068

BGM, 5' 4", 135 LBS. CARAMEL, ATTRACTIVE, KIND, no attitude, versatile, attractive, intelligent and independent. Seeks BGM or Latino with similar attributes. San Fernando Valley. Box # 4039

BM, 25 YEARS OLD, 5' 9", 165 LBS. TOP, looking for Bottom, 18-25 years, for serious commitment. Masculinity is mandatory. No fakes. Box # 2045

ARE YOU MR. RIGHT? This attractive, sensitive, sexy, affectionate, loving 39 year old African-American man wants to love you! I enjoy working out, movies, bowling, skating, walks on the beach, candlelight dinners, romance and giving my all to the right African-American man. I am 5' 7", 165 lbs., bald head, clean shaven, beautiful smile, coffee brown complexion, employed, intelligent, live alone, nice thick legs, round assets and a thick plunger. I'm looking for a dominant top man to accentuate my life. You should be endowed, masculine (top), enjoy working out, want a serious relationship, employed, independent, affectionate and enjoy romance. Tall men a plus, but all responses will be answered. Age unimportant...sex appeal is! HIV+ OK...game players not OK! Serious only. After reading this, do you still think you're Mr. Right? Box # 1317

BEAUTIFUL BLACK MAN WANTS SLIM LATINO for love. For Life. HIV-. Box # 1324

LOOKING FOR A BLK MAN 35-40 with a nice body, who wants a nice young boy and that has a nice body and stable home and enjoys outings. I'm 30 yrs. old, 170 lbs., well hung and Black. You must be versatile in the relationship, manly and enjoy hot sex. Box # 1307

TOP GBM, 40, 5/ 8", 165 LBS., ATTRACTIVE, IN SHAPE. You: 30 +, in shape and attractive, masculine, nice big bubble butt a plus. I fuck in Silverlake area. Box # 1322

SPIRITUAL BM, 6' 2", 205 LBS., HIV+, HANDSOME, LOVING, bottom mostly. You be 6' +, over 25, nice, spiritual, trusting, sexually top, nice looking, groomed. Full of love, faithful. No fems, W/D or fats. I'm hot and ready! Box # 1344

RUFFNECK WANTED. Me: Young BLK man, 5' 7", 27" w, 8" cut dick, lean, defined swimmer's body. Bottom. You: Under 6', workout body, flat stomach, 8" or more cut dick, Top homeboy/Latino skinhead, who's down for some ruff and rugged shit. Box # 2259

REAL SIMPLE! 29 YRS./190 LBS. 6 FT. Into reading, music, herbs & their magical powers! HIV+, X-tremely healthy & goodlooking. Real masculine but versatile. ISO relationship w/masculine BLK or Hsp. UB 21-35 and wanting and needing a lifelong, serious, long relationship. Peace. Box #1441

VERY WELL-ENDOWED, VERY ATTRACTIVE, CUT, VERSATILE, HIV-, 24 YEAR OLD BLACK MAN, 6', 170 lbs., great long slim body, great smile, great personality and great sex. ISO HIV-, very well-endowed, very attractive and personable Black men, 25-40, with good bodies (no over-weights) and great sexual abilities (a little on the freaky side is not bad). I am into hot, safe sexual encounters. I am not into games, flakes, fems and/or irresponsibility. Let's hook up soon. You will not be disappointed. Box # 2122

WANTED: BLACK OR PUERTO RICAN BOTTOMS. Hot black top seeks hot hairy-ass bottom body builder. If you are hot, hairy, horny and a freak, leave a message. Box # 1190

HANDSOME, ROMANTIC BLACK PASSIONATE TOP MAN. Black male, 6'1, 190 lbs., looking for a hot Black man with nice body who wants really nice, warm and passionate love made to him. Box # 1026

W. FRENCH MAN ISO BIG BLACK TOP. I'm a great cook (including soul), healthy and playful, 5' 5", 160 lbs., 43 y.o., into arts & culture, walks, biking, roller skates, Star Trek, computers. You are intelligent, not2hairy, black non-smoker any age, HIV+ OK. Let's be friends; you can become my Prince Charming! Box # 1239

SINGLE AND FREE. I am a 30 year old unattached Top who seeks a Black Bottom, ages 29 to 31, for friendship, fun and/or sex. Box # 1273

WANTED: VERY LARGE, HARD, ROUNDED BUNS with smooth, muscular body, masculine, HIV-, easy-going, for friendship or more. Me: Hispanic, 5' 10", 180 lbs., down-to-earth, athletic body, outdoors, masculine, HIV-, well-endowed. Box # 1341

2 ATTRACTIVE, WELL-HUNG YOUNG MEN 23 & 19 y.o., In/Out. Looking to perform tag team for any serious persons with finances. A time to remember. Tops and bottoms are welcomed. Call for hot young sex. Box # 2130

PASSIONATE AFFECTIONATE GAY ASIAN MALE wanting to meet straight-straight acting, real dark and light-skin African Americans or anyone of African decent. Box # 2038

VERY CUTE SALVADOREAN/LATINO, 5' 7", light brown eyes, curly black hair. hairy body, nice tanned color. I am stable and would like to meet Black and Latino guys (Central Americans, Caribenos) with similar qualities. Box # 2039

I AM A VERY AFRICENTRIC BROTHER, age 49, 215 lbs., handsome and well educated. Seeking an Africentric Brother who is self-loving, sensitive, and caring! Age not an issue. no smokers or drugs. If you love Black people, give me a call. Hotep. Box # 212

GAY BLACK MALE, 35, HANDICAPPED, ABLE TO FEND FOR SELF, enjoys music, life in general, romance and extremely affectionate, seeks companionship, friendship or possible relationship. Box # 1188

NO THIN LINE BETWEEN LOVE & HATE TYPE MEN HERE. ONLY REAL MEN! You: African-American, masculine, muscle toned & tall, 28-40 y/o,HIV-. Me: Hispanic, 24 y/o, 5' 6", 126 lbs. Swimmer's built & cute, HIV-. Serious & Monogomous only!!! Box # 4179

GHM, 47 Y.O., 5' 7", 145 LBS., ATTRACTIVE, SMART, DOWN TO EARTH & EASY GOING ISO masculine, secure Top GBM 40 y.o. or older. Call. Box # 4026

HUNGRY FOR ADVENTURE & SOMETHING DIFFERENT? Masculine black man, young 40's, 175 lbs., in search of other men who R into Leather. UB masculine Top, well-endowed, honest & sincere. No fats, fems or drugs. Safe fun only please.Box # 1346

BROTHAS ONLY. No wan'na be bitches, fat motherfuckers, bathhouse hoes, skinny or fuck limited people. Us: sexy big dick brothas. U: fine, deep juice booty brothas with warm mouths and long, thick tongues. Leave your number so we can fuck you down. Box # 2077

HANDSOME, BLACK 34 Y.O. DEEP THROAT. I love to give oral satisfaction to the right masculine Black man. Call me for long night sessions. Box # 1241

HOT AND HORNY TOP. Black man, 31, 5'11, 175 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, smooth toned body, big cut dick. Into good times and romance. Box # 1210

TIRED OF CRUIZE SPOTS LIKE PARKS, BOOKSTORES, ETC.? Cum and let's all 20 of us do it together and fuck the night away. We get together once a month. Tell all your fit, in-shape and muscular friends to cum join in. Leave a message with your phone #. Box # 1135

ROMANTIC CUTE GBM TOP, 23, 5' 11", HIV-, IN SHAPE, GOATEE, ISO cute, in shape gay Black, Latin, Cuban or Puerto Rican male 21-32, HIV- bottom for friendship/relationship. N2 movies, dancing, holding hands and walks on the beach. Goatee A+. No fats or fems. Box # 2153

I'M A 36 Y.O. BLACK WARRIOR IN NEED of any mature, well-endowed masculine Black King (above 22 years) to lead me into your most desired fantasy. If you're that big Dick Black King who could serve me right (from the back), call me and let your warrior please you your way. Black well-hung Kings only. Box # 1269

VERY ATTRACTIVE BLACK/HISPANIC, 21 YEARS OLD, 5' 11", 170 LBS., light skin, boyish, seeks black, masculine, muscular, attractive father figure or big brother type 4 a serious sexual and loving relationship. U must be clean. No drugs, fats, fems or flakes. Dark skin A+. Box # 1053

BM TOP ISO WM FOR MONOGAMOUS RELATIONSHIP. Long Hair? Great! But okay from preppy to professional to midlength to shaved. Depends on the person. Me: Tall, masculine, attractive, mustache/goatee. drug, drink, smoke-free; spiritual, into sports, music. Prefer HIV-, cut, clean-shaven, non-smoker, but open. Can you say "COMMITMENT"? Box # 4067

MASCULINE GBM IN SEARCH OF HOT TOP LATINOS. Let's burn the sheets! Box # 1348

BIG BUBBLE BUTT BOTTOMS! Me and a host of bubble butt in-shape masculine bottoms would like to invite big pipe dick brothuhs (only) to our monthly fuckfest. Come and fuck us down till we get raw. Answer this ad and you will be fucking some of the best ass in town. We are not and do not want fats, fems, or anything not black. Box # 2151

NON-STEREOTYPICAL NATIVE ITALIAN WHO LOVES TO FUCK AND BE SUCKED. Me: 38 years old, 5' 2", 128 lbs., well built. You: Preferably GBM and insatiable. Fat & fem plz abstain. Box # 3014

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SERVICE PROVIDED BY CONCEPT ST. JAMES, INC. / P.O. BOX 691896, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069
CUSTOMER SERVICE: 310-659-0963

GAY AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALE, HIV+, 28 years old, 145 lbs., 5' 11" tall, very deep dark complexion, with a slender but tone body build. Would like to meet Gay Middle Eastern, Hispanic and Latin men between the ages of 25-35 for a monogamous slow romantic relationship, quality time and dating. Box # 1228

HOT HARDBODY TOP SEEKS HOT HARDBODY BOTTOMS for fun, good times and good love making. I'm big, black, beautiful and buff with lots of dick for yo' ass. Call me if you can take it. Box # 1174

A CUTE LATINO WANTED BY GOOD-LOOKING 30 Y.O.LATINO GAY MAN, 140 lbs., 5' 7", into gym, swimming, school, movies, with experience, HIV-, responsible and educated. U same. Outdoors be a gentleman, indoors be wild. no fems, fats or drugs. Call for friendship or more. First timers O.K. Box # 1089

GWM, 36, 6' 2", 185 LBS., NICE TAN BUBBLE BUTT BOTTOM wants BM uncut muscular Top who likes pounding tight white ass. I love to suck uncut Black cocks (muscles a must) I like to get J/O while getting it. Box # 3030

30 YEAR OLD HALF WHITE, HALF HISPANIC BOTTOM seeks professional GBM top, semi to good physical shape 29 to 45 years old for special monogamous 1 on 1 relationship. Penis size unimportant. I like cute carressable butts. Box # 2067

NEW ADVENTURE IN ALL MALE FUCKING! Black trade (masculine, all shades, hung and versatile) in all positions willing to do whatever it takes to get a piece of U (if you are tall, black, masculine and toned). We want you and your click to come together with ours for a group interlude. Leave a message!. Box # 3022

TALL, DARK AND HANDSOME GBM TOP, 24, Intelligent, buff, college senior looking for GBM in good shape, great body and very intelligent, ready to meet and enjoy good company. Box # 1177

WANTED, ROUGHNECK BROTHAS. We want you to fuck the shit out of us. You need to be 7 1/2 or bigger, well-built and have a good over-sexed attitude. We do not want nothin'-brothas with nothin' to offer (short dick motherfuckers with attitudes who won't get fucked). Box # 1124

29 YR. OLD ITALIAN, VERY ATTRACTIVE, OLIVE SKIN, BROWN HAIR, SMOOTH SWIMMER'S BODY ISO romantic, attractive Afro-American man 25-35. Top/Bottom irrelevant. Whatever works for you. Fucking is important, but let's go to movies, the beach, dinners. I want a companion, not a piece of meat! Box # 1042

HOT & HORNY TOP Heavy-set SBM, 5'11", 235 lbs., 6 1/2". I am a top who enjoys going out to movies & a good meal. UB masculine, SBM, 5' 10" or above, around 190 lbs., thick or muscular. No queens, excessive obesity or non-blacks. Box # 2151

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING REAL? Healthy, masculine GBM, 6' 3" 220 lbs. and handsome. Seeks honest gay male 23-36 for friendship and possible relationship. I enjoy quiet evenings at home, movies, plays, musicals, concerts, candle light dinners and romantic walks on the beach. Please, no fems. Serious callers only. Box # 1084

WM, 48, DISTINGUISHED LOOKING, versatile professional, seeking honest, sincere, super hung, versatile, short (5'3" and under) BM for fun and possible relationship. Allen. Box # 1002

ATTRACTIVE MUSCULAR WELL-ENDOWED BGM TOP, 25, seeks very discreet, masculine men WHO LOVE TO GET FUCKED. Age 19-30. Box # 1015

BLACK AND WHITE TOGETHER. Good-looking Gay blond male wants to please that sexy Afro-American male—bi, straight or gay! Call me—You'll like! Box # 4055

ROMANTIC AFRICAN AMERICAN TOP. 32 year old openly gay, attractive, well-endowed, masculine dark skin African American, 5' 11", 165 lbs. Into theater, literature, candle light dinners at home and romantic lovemaking. Serious only please. Box # 4017

MASCULINE 39 Y.O. SEEKS SIMILAR. Blk, 200 lbs., 6 Ft., moustache, ponytail, into gym, kids, love, friendship, sex, feet, film and self-knowledge. Be real, honest, masculine and open—and I could be had. HIV, white, Hispanic okay. Box # 1024

WHITE MALE, 31, BROWN HAIR, BLUE EYES looking for relationship-minded black male age 30-45. I want to meet someone who likes to read, go to movies and spend quality time at home. Tired of meeting men in bars. Will answer all. Box # 2029

HOT AND HANDSOME BLACK MALE TOP, 29, 6' 2". I like fucking. I'm equipped to service you. Black attractive bottoms in need of good loving done the right way. Call. Be mine tonight. Let's talk. Box # 2026

HOT WHITE SOUL MAN SEEKS HANDSOME HORSE HUNG TOP. Me: 6', 170, 8", smooth, muscular, butch, passionate, bottom beauty. UB muscular, masculine & hung huge to satisfy my hungry hole & deep throat. Equipped playroom available. Be cool. Call. Box # 1272

LOOKING FOR GOOD HEAD? 42 year old black male, 5'6", 150 lbs., passable looks, F/A; No/GR. U B black, oriental, Hispanic, No. African, Puerto Rican, Egyptian, any man of color. Over 6' tall or under 5' short & uncut a +. Cock size unimportant. U must B clean, no drugs, pros, fats or fems. My place or? Days & some evenings. Very, very discreet—UB2. U won't B sorry. L.A. area. No games, no head trips. I'M GOOD. Box # 1012

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BIG BLACK DICK LIKES TO FUCK. I'm a 26 yr. old dark skinned black man with 9 1/2 fat inches looking for sweet bottoms who want it big, thick and slow. Box # 3002

DARK WARRIORS ONLY. Seeking a GBM dark skinned warrior. I'm a hot GBM bottom, 21, cat brown eyes, light brown skinned, 5' 5", medium build. I enjoy movies, dancing, dinners, music and collecting Teddy bears. I'm seeking a GBM top, 21-35, dark skinned a plus. If you want a new friend, call. Box # 1181

PASSIONATE AFFECTIONATE GAY ASIAN MALE wanting to meet straight-straight acting, real dark and light-skin African Americans or anyone of African decent. Box # 2038

A BOTTOM SEEKING A TOP. Black gay male 39 years old, 6' 1", 200 lbs. I am looking for a Top 25-37, down to earth, loving, caring, romantic. Someone intelligent & understanding who loves to get down all night long. Please leave a message. Box # 3003

ATTRACTIVE HISPANIC BOTTOM, 44, medium build, with love buns, seeks well hung Black Top man with very thick 8" or more for prolong hot times on a regular basis. Make me take it in any way you can deliver it. Box # 1096

VGL WM, 30, 6', 192 LBS into very muscular, intelligent, fun, affectionate, communicative Black men. I am articulate, witty, fun, with a good sense of humor, into working out, music, movies and friends. I am a good catch and you should be too. Box # 2113

VERY CUTE SALVADOREAN/LATINO, 5' 7", light brown eyes, curly black hair. hairy body, nice tanned color. I am stable and would like to meet Black and Latino guys (Central Americans, Caribenos) with similar qualities. Box # 2039

NICE LOOKING BM, 6' 1", 205 LBS. VERY BIG LEGS, XXXCALFS. I need BIG DICK TRADE to go deep into my pussy. Only 95% tops. Be good looking, professional, clean, nice, Black, P. Rican, Cuban, Latin. I'm manly and fem. No queens or fems, or under 9" Box # 1252

PASSIONATE, STABLE, TOGETHER WM seeking a mate. Preferably GBM. I'm 30 y.o., 5' 8", 155 lbs., attractive, sexy & a bottom. Sincere, intelligent, attractive, sexy, no games, none-scene type of individual wanted. Seek and you shall find—. Box # 2020

GBM, 32, 6' 1", 160 LBS. I AM MARRIED but looking for serious minded part time love. I enjoy music, TV and long walks on the beach. You be in good shape, open minded, rough trade. Bi okay, strong willed and minded. Versatile a big plus. Must be discreet. Box # 1286

GBM, 30, 5' 7", 155 LBS., DENZEL-LOOKING CHRISTIAN in-shape who works out, enjoys listening to music and being a man and who doesn't hate women. I love sexy, cool mixed-race men, 23-30, born on the east coast who are able to go back to the hood, tight body, nice feet, sexy lips. Box # 1375

SHM (PUERTO RICAN), 21, HANDSOME, AVG. HEIGHT, MEDIUM BUILD. Short dark hair, moustache, goatee, brown skin. Seeking casual, tall, big, hairy or non hairy Hispanic homeboy type (18-48) top with a big (8 1/2+) thick dick! for companionship. Regular guy lkg 4 regular guy who's not into the scene, drugs, all this bullshit out here! I love to joke around and have fun in and out of bed. Let's do it together. Call me now! Box # 4079

HANDSOME, HOT, HORNY, ROMANTIC, SUBMISSIVE BM, 55, 5' 11", 155 lbs., HIV +, seeks a "boxsy" white guy (long hair a +). Submissive has need to surrender to a patient, caring, verbal, boss into having it "his way". Open to bondage, gear, etc. with relationship possibilities. Box # 1367

MASTER SEEKS BLK TRAINEES for TT, CBT, Butt discipline, dress code, attitude adjustment, physical training, total service. You: under 32, in shape, cln shaven, thick tongue, horse hung, bull nuts, bubble butt, novice. Uncut A+. Me: Mid 40s, X-Marine, in shape, experienced. No fakes, fems, barflies, smokers, druggies, gold diggers. Box # 2131

SEXY GAM, 20'S, SMOOTH, TAN, ATHLETIC, ISO GUYS UNDER 30 for friendship, fun & more...please be sincere & down 2 earth. Into R & B, running, politics & more...call me! Box # 1336

BGM, 35, MASCULINE, MUSCULAR TOP, 5'11", 170 lbs., HIV-, seeks well-endowed GBM bottoms between 35-50 for sexual friction and casual friendship. Box # 1169

ATTRACTIVE DARK SKIN BGM HIV- TOP, 5' 8", 151 lbs., young-looking 40's, endowed, cut, intelligent, romantic, ISO an attractive, intelligent, in shape, HIV- bottom in his 20's or 30's for romantic encounters. Box # 1033

CAMPING & HIKING MAN WANTED BY GWM, 6' 1", 205 LBS., HIV-, 37: likes outdoors, hiking, hot springs, bicycling, camping. Seeking a n/s GM who is looking for a friend to do these things with. Box # 3046

BM, 50, 5' 11", 185 LBS., STR8 ACTING, SPIRITUAL, MUSCULAR; intelligent, gym-goer, into books, walks, talks, music. Seeks BM/H with similar intellect for monogamous relationship, between 45 y.o. & 55 y.o. Serious only respond. HIV-. "Yall, this ain't no sex call." Box # 2133

CARIBBEAN NATIVE: SUCCESSFUL, CUTE, FRENCH-SPEAKING, 34, 5' 9", 140 LBS. New to L.A., into cycling, swimming, travel and romance. Looking for a special, independent, masculine topman, any age, who appreciates the finer things in life. Homeboy or cholo type will be considered. Box # 1133

NEW FROM TEXAS. WOULD YOU LIKE A SUPERFREAK? Well I'm into stud black tops with big huge cocks who know what they want. Must be 25-35, top and real. I'm a 25 GWM, 6', 190 lbs. blonde, green eyes and excellent underneath. Someone who will last. Box # 1377

AFFECTIONATE, EASY-GOING, FUN TO BE WITH GAY ASIAN MALE seeks straight-acting or straight man of color for friendship and maybe much more. Box # 2090

BLACK MALE, 6' 1", 39 YEARS OLD. I'm a bottom who is looking for a well hung cock on a masculine male to work on this "hot" ass all night long. If this sounds good to you, give me a call. Box # 2089

GBM, HOT, MASCULINE, INDEPENDENT, SHY, sexually passive bottom with potential, seeks Black, aggressive gentleman for intimacy and fun. Hairy chest and hung a plus. Looks unimportant. Boy, call me! I'll cook. Box # 1333

SUCKSLAVE NEEDS TO PLEASE! Keep me at crotch level for long sessions of repeated servicing. I won't question your needs and will take each load. Seek single or couple. Your place weekdays 10 AM/ 3 PM I'm normally available to completely satisfy the oral way. WM 47. Horny. Box # 1362

LOOKING FOR LOVE & AFFECTION!!! BGM, 47 years young, HIV+, business oriented, shy, attractive Pisces, ISO a black man—35 to 55 years young—interested in a committed & passionate relationship. I'm tired of being along and looking for love and affection!!! Box # 1356

TALL, DARK & HANDSOME 6' 4", 209 LBS. OF STRAIGHT LUV seeks the Impossible. UB Black w/no games, drugs or bull. Start as friends, etc. If you are not happy, what's the point? Box # 1366

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ORGANIZATIONS/GROUPS/MEETINGS

HEY BROTHER, WE HAVE A LOT TO TALK ABOUT! Real friendships start with a hello. Say hello to your brothers in a non-judgmental, supportive environment where group discussions touch on subjects of concerned to all of us as Black gay men. Come join in on The Black Gay Men's Rap. We meet every Friday at 7 pm at the Unity Fellowship Center, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., two blocks West of La Brea in the Baldwin Hills area of Los Angeles. For more information please call 213.936.4948.

FREE COMEDY IMPROV WORKSHOP IN WEST HOLLYWOOD continuing every Thursday evening at 7:30 PM for comics, actors, writers, directors and all professionals. The workshop meets at The Actors Lab, located at 1514 North Gardener Avenue in West Hollywood. For reservations please call 310.659.2227.

HEART TO HEART TOUCH PLAYSHOPS: Join fun & intimacy in nonsexual supportive touch activities. 7:30 PM, Wednesdays at 8000 Sunset Blvd. Community Room. West Hollywood. $10. 213.891.6000

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L.A. PERSONALS:

BLACK MEN UNITE. Group of Black men unite weekly for sex. Seeking new members. We like all types except: obese, elderly, queens and mean people. If interested, call 213. 957.4709.

DIAL-A-DATE "AN INTRODUCTION NETWORK FOR BLACK GAY MEN" Our monthly newsletter provides contacts for single Black gay men seeking relationships, friendships and dating. To receive information on "Dial-A-Date" call 213.980.3373 or send a self addressed stamped envelope to: 289 So. Robertson Bl. #401 Beverly Hills, Ca. 90211

NATIONAL LEISURE OPPORTUNITIES

BLACK MEN ON THE WEB! Catch's Place, for those men who admire the African American male, features hot original black male images, personal ads, community information, and more! hhtp://www.primenet.com/~catch

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL PERSONALS AND PEN PALS:

CRAZY, SEXY, COOL & HOT BROTHER. Single black attractive man, 32 years old, 10 solid inches, 5' 10", 155 lbs, former SBC centerfold model, likes Oleta Adams, Randy Crawford & Phyllis Hyman. Also likes long hot bubble baths & a rough game of basketball. You: 25-35 yrs. old, 5' 8" to 6' 1", 160 to 180 lbs., nice ass & also hung. Bald head is O.K. I love a black man with a goatee & who takes care of his body & mind & must have strong legs. No smokers. Let's get to know one another. You must also live in Memphis, L.A. or South Carolina, but I will answer all. Make that move. Real Black Men Only. Write to Erick/ 4643 Pecan Street/ New Orleans, Louisiana 70126

FOR SEX AS A SPIRIT TRIP, (Black) Body/Soul mate wanted to seek God in whatever sexual ecstacies. 5' 11", cut 7", 175 lbs., mustache, good looking, HIV-, late 40s WM, Christian at core, versatile bottom seeks trim to slim, mission oriented, compatible searcher with the body-heart-spirit mutuality blacks have shown me. Travel nationwide. Write to Jim at 925 30th Ave. S. #406 or call 612.339.3950

LOOKING FOR LOVE & AFFECTION FROM A STRONG BLACK MAN 45 for a white male in my 50s in Dallas, Texas to embrace me and be with me for the rest of my life as a true friend and lover. Eddie. 214.946.7325

MUSCULAR AND HUNG BLACK J/O PERFORMANCE ARTISTS WANTED FOR XXX VIDEO WORK. L.A. and San Francisco area shoots. Video clip and or full body photo to: RD, P.O. Box 10531, Pleasanton, CA 94588.

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STRIKINGLY HANDSOME BM, MOUSTACHE, GREAT SMILE, MASC., MUSC., MILITARY, 38, TOP, clean, healthy (HIV-), safe. Seek similar musc. men 20's - 40's with strong bodies and minds. No drugs. All races encouraged (especially mixed race). Lean and slender A+. Come visit me in San Diego. I'm worth the effort. 619.423.7754

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MICHIGAN

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MISSOURI

MY BODY'S CALLIN', DISTANT LOVER. I will be right here so have no fear. Need very muscular bod with a beautiful personality and smile for friendship and relationship! Let's talk about it. Send photo clothed or naked. I'm easy to please. Darren. 3401 E. 62nd/ Kansas City, MO. 64130

TEXAS

LOOKING FOR LOVE & AFFECTION FROM A STRONG BLACK MAN 45 for a white male in my 50s in Dallas, Texas to embrace me and be with me for the rest of my life as a true friend and lover. Eddie. 214.946.7325

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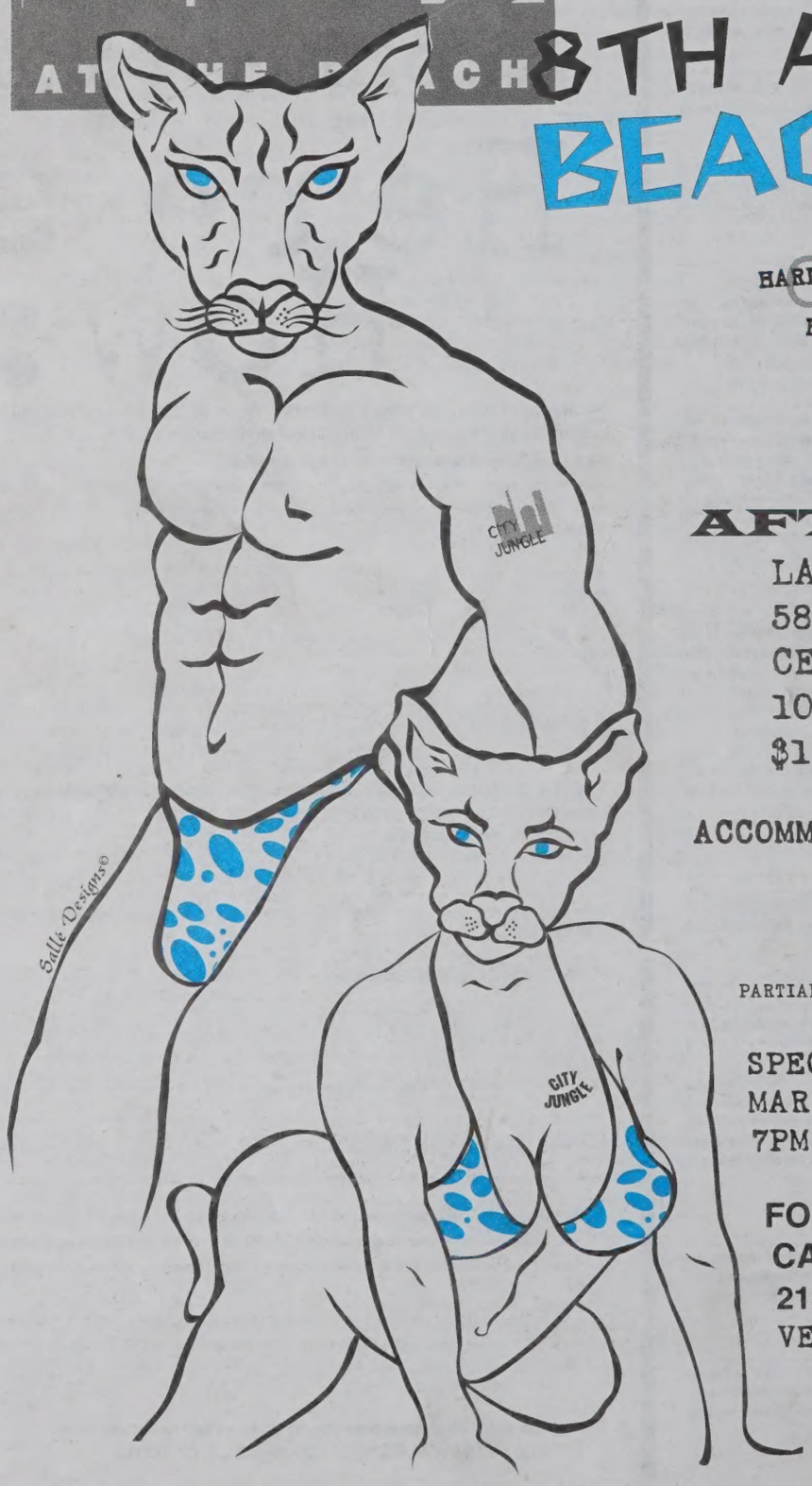

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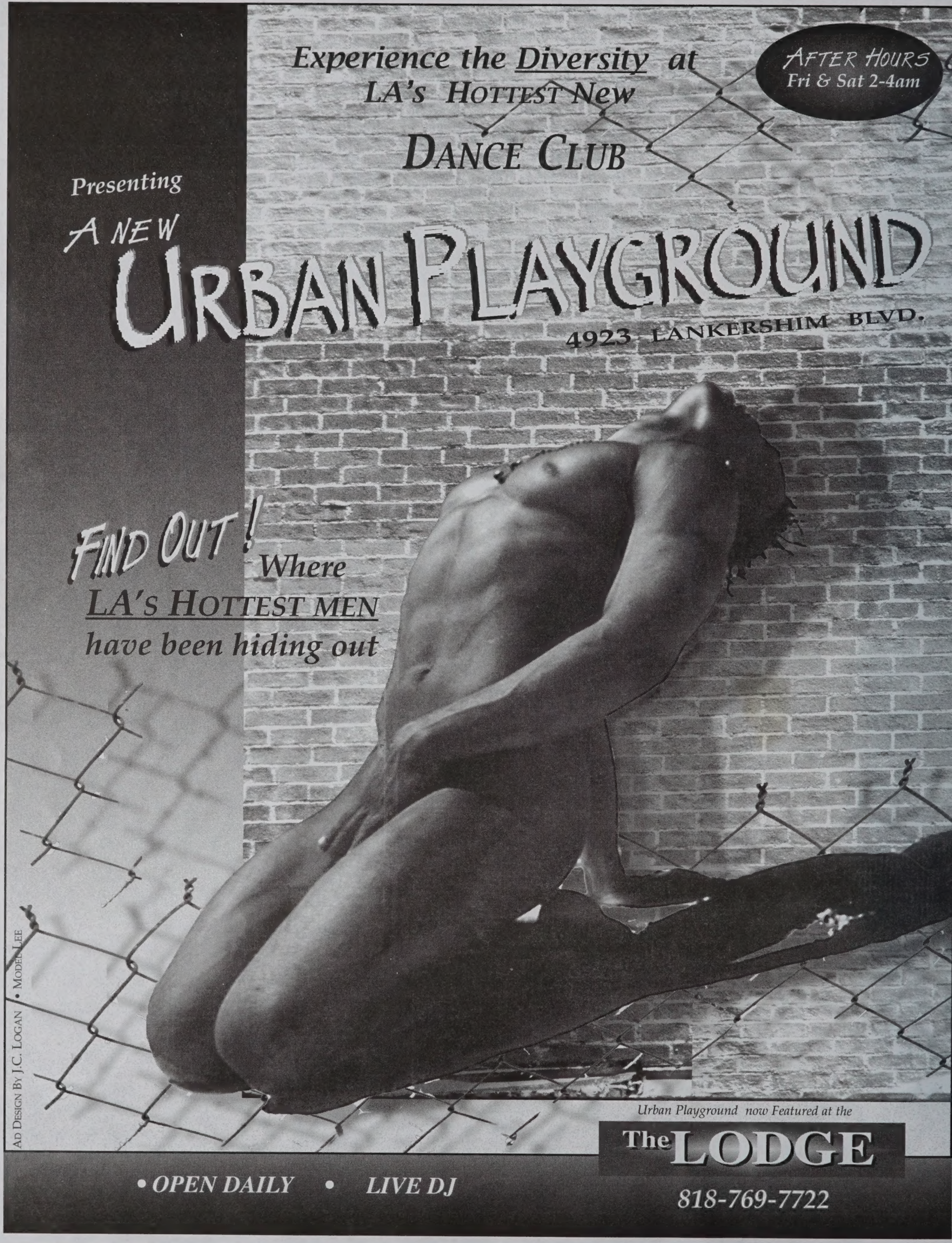
LOS ANGELES

OCTOBER 1996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october 96

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KILLING THEM SOFTLY

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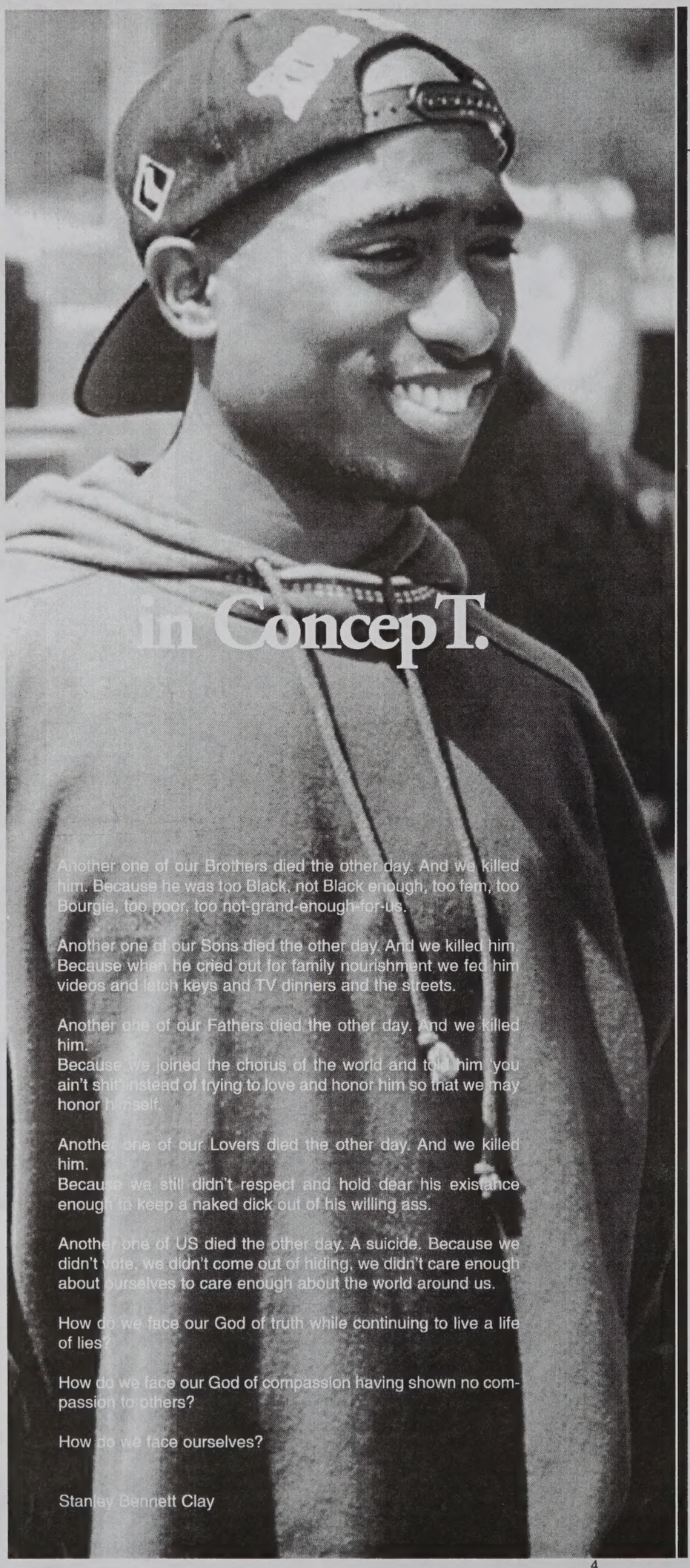
THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ROMANCE AND HOOK-UP CONNECTION--PLAY SAFE

On the cover
oriental robe by Regi D'Lee
of Comfort Zone

underwear by Undergear

Model,,Andre McCoy
Photography by Greg McNeal



in ConcepT.

Another one of our Brothers died the other day. And we killed him. Because he was too Black, not Black enough, too fem, too Bourgie, too poor, too not-grand-enough-for-us.

Another one of our Sons died the other day. And we killed him. Because when he cried out for family nourishment we fed him videos and latch keys and TV dinners and the streets.

Another one of our Fathers died the other day. And we killed him.
Because we joined the chorus of the world and told him "you ain't shit" instead of trying to love and honor him so that we may honor himself.

Another one of our Lovers died the other day. And we killed him.
Because we still didn't respect and hold dear his existance enough to keep a naked dick out of his willing ass.

Another one of US died the other day. A suicide. Because we didn't vote, we didn't come out of hiding, we didn't care enough about ourselves to care enough about the world around us.

How do we face our God of truth while continuing to live a life of lies?

How do we face our God of compassion having shown no compassion to others?

How do we face ourselves?

Stanley Bennett Clay

SBC

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STANLEY BENNETT CLAY
Publisher and Editor-In-Chief

William DeBardelaben
Director of Sales

Gregory Victorianne
New England Correspondent

Wil Jackson
Philadelphia Correspondent

Lynwoodt Jenkins
Atlanta Correspondent

Gregory Eugene Travis
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Orlando Robinson
Fashion Editor

Editorial Contributors:
Erik Aston
Stanley Bennett Clay
Dorinda G. Henry
Orlando Robinson
Gregory Eugene Travis

Graphic design
Stanley Bennett Clay
William DeBardelaben
Orlando Robinson

Ron Singleton
Chief Photographer

Print and On-line Advertising Sales:
William DeBardelaben
213.733.5661 FAX 213.733.9200

Atlanta/Southern Regional Sales:
Chip Williford 404.244.6866

National Advertising Representative:
Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 1268 Plainfield, NJ 07060
908.232.2021 Fax: 908.232.0521

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Is There a Difference Between Democrats & Republicans?

"When I ran for President in 1992, I told you about my vision for America—a vision you were and are very much a part of. I'm especially proud to be the first President ever to endorse a civil rights bill that specifically includes gay and lesbian Americans. I support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, because I believe in the fundamental values of fairness and equality—values that are at the very heart and soul of the creed that unites us as a nation."

"Those who would seek to legalize discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation are gravely mistaken about the values that make our nation strong....this is not an issue of special rights." President Bill Clinton

"I oppose the special interest gay agenda that runs from gays in the military and reaches as far as to suggest special status for sexual orientation under federal civil rights statutes." Sen. Bob Dole

President Bill Clinton's Record

- ✔ Endorsed ENDA - (Employment Non-Discrimination Act)
- ✔ Appointed over 100 openly lesbian and gay officials to Administration
- ✔ Appointed 2 openly gay Cabinet Assistant Secretaries requiring Senate confirmation
- ✔ Appointed first openly lesbian federal judge
- ✔ Appointed two Supreme Court Justices that provided crucial votes against Colorado's anti-gay Amendment Two
- ✔ Initiated sexual orientation non-discrimination policies in all non-military Cabinet agencies and departments
- ✔ Lifted the ban on security clearances based on sexual orientation
- ✔ Increased funding for HIV/AIDS 40%, and increased Ryan-White funding 108%
- ✔ Fought to protect Medicaid and Medicare as federal entitlement programs
- ✔ Initiated research on on teen suicide and sexual orientation
- ✔ Issued an Executive Order ending the gag-rule on abortion counselling
- ✔ Issued an Executive Order lifting the ban on fetal tissue research
- ✔ Passed the Family & Medical Leave Act
- ✔ Passed the Brady Bill and the Assault Weapons Ban
- ✔ Strongly favors a woman's right to choose

Senator Bob Dole's Record

- ✘ Opposes the inclusion of sexual orientation in federal civil rights statutes
- ✘ Voted against the confirmation of openly lesbian Roberta Achtenberg as Assistant Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development
- ✘ Voted against lifting the ban on gays in the military
- ✘ Voted for Sen. Jesse Helms' amendment to the Ryan-White Care act to cut off funding to gay community health organizations
- ✘ Voted to freeze Ryan-White spending at 1995 levels despite increasing case loads of people with HIV and AIDS
- ✘ Vowed to end Medicaid as an entitlement program and turn control over to the states without federal guarantees or oversight
- ✘ Voted for Helms' amendment to cut off federal funds to local schools with programs aimed at preventing anti-gay violence, HIV transmission, and gay teen suicide
- ✘ Strongly opposed ending the gag-rule on abortion counselling
- ✘ Strongly opposed lifting the ban on fetal tissue research
- ✘ Voted against the Family & Medical Leave Act
- ✘ Voted against the Brady Bill and the Assault Weapons Ban
- ✘ Strongly opposes a woman's right to choose

You Bet There Is!

STONEWALL DEMOCRATIC CLUB
Endorsements - Presidential Election Nov. 5, 1996

President of the United States William Jefferson Clinton — **Vice President of the U.S.** Albert Gore Jr.

CONGRESS	CONGRESS	STATE SENATE	ASSEMBLY	ASSEMBLY	ASSEMBLY	ASSEMBLY
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25 Diane Trautman	34 Esteban Torres	21 Adam Schiff	38 Jon Lauritzen	45 Antonio Villaraigosa	52 Carl Washington	60 Susan Amaya
26 Howard Berman	35 Maxine Waters	23 Tom Hayden	39 Tony Cardenas	46 Louis Caldera	53 Debra Bowen	61 Paul Vincent Avila
27 Doug Kahn	36 Jane Harman	25 Teresa Hughes	40 Robert Hertzberg	47 Kevin Murray	54 Gerrie Schipske	L.A. DISTRICT ATTORNEY
29 Henry Waxman	37 Juanita McDonald	27 Betty Karnette	41 Sheila Kuehl	48 Rod Wright	55 Richard Floyd	Gil Garcetti
30 Xavier Becerra	38 Rick Zbur	29 Tommy Randle	42 Wally Knox	49 Diane Martinez	56 Sally Havice	
32 Julian Dixon	REMEMBER TO VOTE.... YOUR'E LIFE MAY DEPEND ON IT!		43 Scott Wildman	50 Martha Escutia	57 Martin Gallegos	

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204	YES	Safe, Clean, Reliable Water Supply Act	210	YES	Livable Wage Initiative Minimum Wage Increase	216	NO POSITION	Health Care Consumer Protection Initiative HMO Regulation & Consumer Protection
205	NP	Youthful & Adult Offenders Facilities Bond Construction & Renovation of County Jails	211	YES	Retirement Income Protection & Security	217	YES	Reinstate Top Income Tax Brackets
206	YES	Veterans Bond Act of 1996 Low Interest Farm & Home Loans	212	NO	Campaign Contributions & Spending Limits CALPIRG, Repeals Gift & Honoraria Limits	218	NO	Voter Approval of Local Government Taxes. Limits on Fees, Assessments & Charges
207	YES	Attorneys Fees, Frivolous Lawsuits Bans Restrictions on Negotiating Fees	213	NO	Limitations on Recovery to Uninsured Motorists, Felons, and Drunk Drivers	BB	YES	LAUSD Bond Measure Repair & Renovation of School Facilities
208	NO	Campaign Contributions & Spending Limits Common Cause Initiative	214	YES	Health Care Consumer Protection Initiative (SEIU) HMO Regulation, Ends Gag Rules	K	YES	City of LA Assessment District Land acquisition and Park Improvements
209	NO	California Civil Rights Initiative Bans Affirmative Action Programs	215	YES	Medical Use of Marijuana Physician Prescription Required	AA	YES	LA Community College Assessment District Landscape, Lighting & Recreation Improvement

We need your help to make Nov. 5th the biggest lesbian & gay voter turnout ever!

for information or to volunteer call (213) 969-1735 or Email: StonwalDem@aol.com

Stonewall Democratic Club ▼ 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #325 ▼ West Hollywood, CA 90046 ▼ ID# 800995

411

SAN FRANCISCO MAYOR WILLIE BROWN WELCOMES ATTENDEES TO 2ND ANNUAL BAY BASH

San Francisco, CA—Bay Bash, the annual pride celebration for members and friends of the Oakland/San Francisco Bay Area's lesbian, gay, bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) African descent community, is proud to announce that Mayor Willie Brown will welcome guest aboard the Five Stars Yacht for the Bay Bash Sunset Dinner Cruise departing from San Francisco's Pier 40 (near China Basin & the Bay Bridge) on Sunday, October 13, 1996 at 5 PM. This is the second year Mayor Brown has attended Bay Bash. Last year, Mayor Brown greeted guest attending the Bay Bash Barbecue.

Bay Bash, which provides four days of social gatherings where individuals and organizations of the Bay Area's LGBT community can meet, educate, empower, support, entertain, unite, network and party, was founded and is produced by Andre Morgan, a longtime Bay Area events coordinator who performed as a singer/songwriter/actor in New York City before moving to San Francisco. Mr. Morgan will be performing original material at the Bay Bash 96 Cabaret, one of several events on the Bay Bash schedule.

Bay Bash is sponsored by The National Task Force on AIDS Prevention, The Box, Oblivion Magazine, Whazzup! Magazine, Departure Point Magazine, The San Francisco AIDS Foundation and Lesbians & Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action (LGADDA).

Proceeds from Bay Bash '96 will benefit the programs of Brothers Network in San Francisco and Black Men's Xchange (BMX) in Oakland. For ticket, volunteer, sponsorship and program guide information, please call 415.922.5156.

THE DATING GAYME MEETS AGAIN OCTOBER 9

Los Angeles, CA—L.A. Shanti's new series of fun and free workshops for single gay men, *The Dating Gayme*, will meet again Wednesday, October 9th. The session takes place from 7 to 9 PM at West Hollywood Elementary School, 970 N. Hammond Street, West Hollywood. Free parking is provided behind the school.

The Dating Gayme gives gay bachelors the opportunity to meet dozens of eligible men, while absorbing valuable dating skills and having a good time. This forum will specifically address the judgments that many gay men make about their own value and the value of other men. It will also look at the expectations many men have about the outcome of the dating experience.

For more information, call John Copeland at L.A. Shanti at 213.962.8197 or 818.908.8849.

LEATHERMEN OF COLOR CELEBRATE 1ST ANNIVERSARY OVER COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND

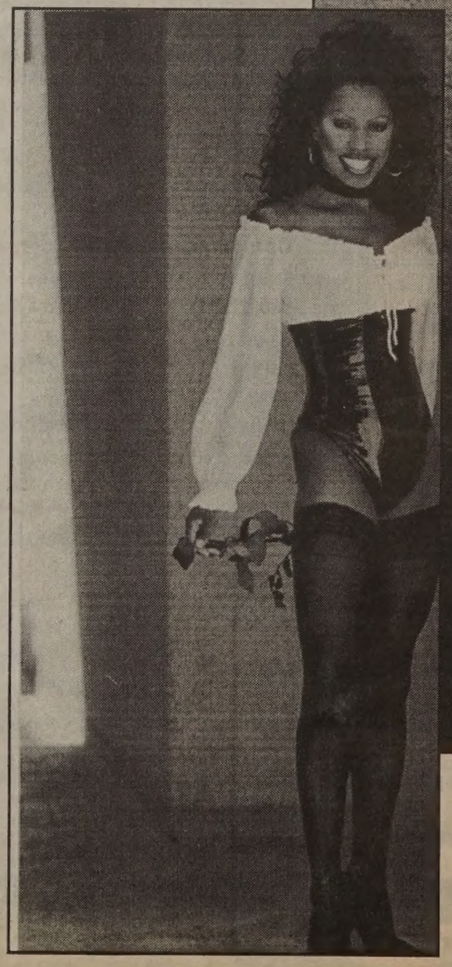
Chicago, ILL—ONYX, the Windy City's club for LEATHERMEN of color, will host it's 1st anniversary weekend, The ONYX Blackout, during the Columbus Day weekend, October 11th-13th. In addition to a Friday night anniversary reception with a free buffet, a Saturday afternoon Leather Forum for men of color, a Saturday night dungeon play party and a Sunday brunch are scheduled, as well as The Blackout Leather Dance, ending the weekend on Sunday night at the Chicago Eagle. The dance will feature DJ Freddie Bain, leather go-go boys and a leather fashion show. A portion of the dance proceeds will benefit the Leather Archives and Museum and Brother II Brother, a community outreach intervention project for African American men. Cell Block Chicago will host the reception where local sponsors will be honored.

Specific information on the weekend's events can be obtained by calling The ONYX-line at 312.329.6141

AMERICA'S FIRST GAY AND LESBIAN CONSUMER AND EMPLOYEE SUMMIT ANNOUNCES LEADING CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS, HIGH PROFILE SPEAKERS

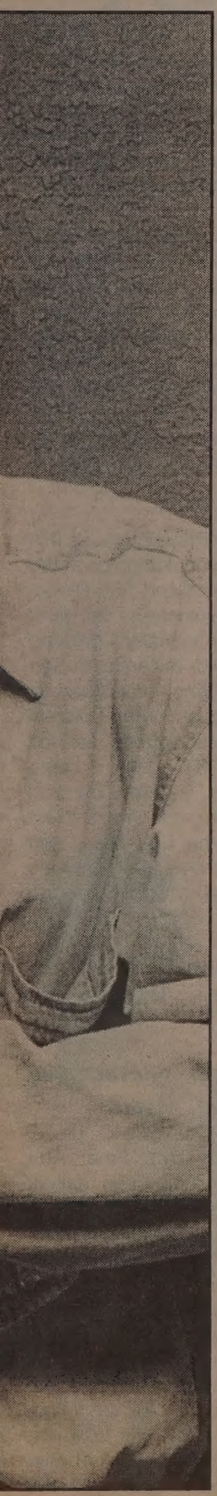
New York, NY—The Leadership Co-Chairs of Workplace/Marketplace '96 recently announced an unprecedented level of corporate support and participation for what is being billed as the "Summit In The City" occurring October 10-11, 1996 in New York City.

Confirmed sponsorships for the fall event now include American Airlines, NYNEX, Simmons Market Research Bureau, Coors Brewing Company, Meyers Sheppard Pride Fund and SGI Inc., a member of the New York Stock Exchange. The keynote speech will be delivered by Elizabeth Birch, Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign, during Thursday's luncheon session, and Richard Burns, Executive Director of the New York Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center on



Jazzmun and Wheaton James, stars of upcoming stage comedy *ASK ANY GIRL*

Friday—both open to the public. Grant Lukenbill, who is in charge of Program Development and author of *Untold Millions: Positioning Your Business for the Gay and Lesbian Consumer Revolution* assures, "This will truly be a historical two-day event. We are finally bringing together some of America's most important business people, both gay and straight, to explore our common issues and alliances."



The conference schedule, which includes both workplace and marketplace forums, will be broad based, but its focus will be on helping business leaders better understand gay and lesbian employment and marketing issues including domestic partnership benefits. diversity issues, advertising and marketing strategies, workplace/community communications, financial planning and individual customer relations.

Sue Spelman and Liz Winfeld, authors of *Straight Talk about Gays in the Workplace,* are scheduled to conduct two of the most imperative seminars at the conference: domestic partnership benefits and diversity education in the workplace. Other forums planned are: moderated panels on sexual harassment and homophobia in the workplace; AIDS/HIV issues (presented by representatives from the magazines *POZ* and *Art & Understanding*); Simmons Market Research Bureau's presentation of the latest gay and lesbian demographics; an advance internet discussion with America Online's Lifestyle Forum leader Michael Lovetto; and a dialogue lead by *LGNY* editor Liz Tracy on consumer backlash issues and the threats business and consumers, both gay and straight, are facing by the increasing emergence of extremist groups.

Steve Levenberg, founder of the Gay and Lesbian Business Expo and administrator for the event noted, "Those who are attending the conference are keen individuals who realize that their company cannot possibly remain competitive now or in the future unless they are on top of the issues to be presented."

Workplace/Marketplace '96 will provide valuable information and networking opportunities to anyone in business, but should hold special interest for human resources personnel, labor relations managers, advertising, marketing and public relations executives, corporate communications managers and public policy representatives. People planning on attending Workplace/Marketplace '96 should look forward to the insights that panel participants from American Airlines, Coors Brewing Company, NYNEX, Meyers Sheppard, Simmons, American On-line and the New York Stock Exchange will bring to the table.

Todd Evans, President of Rivendell Marketing, America's leading gay and lesbian media placement service and a national sponsor of the event noted "The importance and visibility of the gay market is continuing to grow at a phenomenal rate. Today's marketers and personnel executives are looking for the access, information and leadership that will be found in our forums, debates and seminars. This is where corporate managers, non-profit professionals and community leaders will find common ground with lesbians and gay men regarding a host of emerging public and private issues".

Arts & Understanding, LGNY, Metrolines, GaySource, POZ and the *Village Voice* will be the event's media sponsors. Community sponsorships have also been extended by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and The New York Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, whose Executive Director Richard Burns is a planned speaker on Friday.

Single reservations for the two-day event are $429.00 each with generous group discounts available upon request. Premium registration packages are also available at $479.00 which includes lunch for both days as well as priority seating reservations for keynote addresses during luncheon sessions. Both registration fees include unrestricted access to all event presentations being held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Times Square, a complimentary continental breakfast and beverage service both days, discounts on hotel accommodations and airline tickets as well as a special entertainment concert and a variety of product sampler packages.

National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference Delegates Russell Thornhill, Alexander Robinson and Reginald Chapple

Space is limited. Immediate registration and sponsorship information can be obtained through the Workplace/Marketplace registration office at Rivendell Marketing: 212.242.6863. On-line information is also available at a number of sites by typing workplace/marketplace at any search engine on the World Wide Web.

Room reservations at the Crowne Plaza Times Square can be made at 212.977.4000.

BAYARD RUSTIN/AUSTIN LORDE POLITICAL CLUB FORMS IN CHICAGO

Chicago, ILL—In July 1996, several individuals gathered to officially create a new political organization called the Bayard Rustin/Audre Lorde Club.

Created in an effort to fill the political void experienced by the lesbigay/trans communities of color in Chicago, the Rustin/Lorde Club is designed for to promote participation within the Democratic Party around issues that affect members of the lesbigay/trans community, in addition to assisting with positive opinions on the community in the local, state and national sections of the Democratic Party.

The Rustin/Lorde Club will provide voter education, registration, candidate forums and endorsements according to its members in regards to the Bylaws.

Among its first endeavors, the Rustin/Lorde Club was a co-sponsor of the recent Rainbow Jam, a celebration in honor of the Lesbian and Gay Delegates to the Democratic National Convention.

For further information regarding the Bayard Rustin/Audre Lorde Club, write Rustin/Lorde Club, 1427 W. Jarvis Avenue, Suite 104, Chicago, Ill. 60626. Or call 312.262.5702.

NOVELIST JAMES EARL HARDY AND OTHER BLACK HOMOSEXUAL BROTHERS & SISTERS WILL CELEBRATE IN THE DESERT NOVEMBER 1-3

Phoenix, AZ—More than 1,000 African American gay, lesbian and bisexual professional, corporate executives, community leaders, national activists and party *children* will gather in Phoenix, November 1-3, 1996 for *The Gathering "96"* which will include a welcome reception, unity picnic, disco dance and networking opportunities.

"We are extremely excited about the upcoming event," said a member of the executive committee. "Attendees may have attended previous functions in Los Angeles, Washington D.C. or Atlanta, but they need to truly prepare themselves for the event of the decade...Diva's In The Desert."

The brain child of event Chairman Dr. Willie Finch, *The Gathering "96"* is an outgrowth from conversations held during *At The Beach* in Los Angeles regarding the lack of national events during the winter months. Shortly thereafter a planning committee was formed, facilities identified and marketing began. Calls have come in from around the country, north to south and coast to coast.

The Gathering "96" weekend will officially kickoff on November 1 at 7 PM at the Holiday Inn Corporate North, the event's official hotel, with the Welcome Reception followed by a Bid Whis Card Tournament with over $400 in cash prizes. *B-Boy Blues* author James Earl Hardy will host a signing for his fall 1996 release, *Second Time Around.*

411 Con't followed by a Bid Whis Card Tournament with over $400 in cash prizes. *B-Boy Blues* author James Earl Hardy will host a signing for his fall 1996 release, *Second Time Around.*

JAZZMUN AND WHEATON JAMES STAR IN NEW STAGE COMEDY OPENING JAN. 31,

Hollywood, CA—-Jazzmun, successful film and television Drag Diva, will make her theatre stage debut opposite Wheaton James in the new comedy *Ask Any Girl*, written and directed by Robert Banks Ramirez and produced by Stanley Bennett Clay. Jazzmun, known for her guest appearances on *The John Larroquette Show,* will play Mahogany St. Ross, a fierce transgender Diva from the Oakland Bay area who has come to Los Angeles to attend a memorial for her closest friend and occasional dragmate who recently died of AIDS. She stays with her best friend's twin brother, a law student who is also gay, played by Wheaton James. Their long evening of mourning is filled with reminisces, bitchery, remorse, and, ultimately, a bonding engendered by shared loss, familial love and lasting memories.

Ask Any Girl, which was an Awards Finalist in the Inner City Cultural Center's short play competition, opens January 31, 1997 for 3 weekends only at the Stella Adler Theater, 6776 Hollywood Boulevard in Hollywood. Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 PM and Sundays at 3 PM. For ticket information, orders and group sales call Stanley Bennett Clay @ 213.733.5661.

NATIONAL BLACK LESBIAN & GAY LEADERSHIP FORUM ANNOUNCES 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

Los Angeles, CA—-The Tenth Anniversary National Black Lesbian and Gay Conference and Institutes will take place February 13-17, 1997 at the Long Beach Hilton & Towers in Long Beach, California. This year's theme, "Black Lesbians and Gays: Celebrating Our Legacy," will focus on the recognition and acknowledgment of the powerful, influential and critical contributions made by Black Lesbians and Gays. This is an ideal time for the members, supporters and friends of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum to reflect on the issues, challenges and successes of the last nine years. In addition, the 10th Conference will serve as an opportunity for Lesbians & Gays of African Descent to establish the framework from which we position ourselves to move into the 21st Century.

The Conference draws national and international participants, and is host to workshops, Institutes and vendors from the African-American. Lesbian and Gay communities. Topics to be discussed during the five-day conference include: leadership, culture/arts, family/youth, heterosexism, racism, ageism, health, public policy economics, womyn's/men issues and spirituality.

This year's Conference Chairs are Vallerie Wagner and Troy Fernandez. This year's Conference Vice-Chairs are Debra Rose (Denver, CO) and Steven Walker (Houston, TX). All are currently serving as Board Members to the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum. In Addition, the Conference Chairs and Vice-Chairs are active and visible figures within the Lesbian and Gay Community.

The Conference is currently soliciting vendors, workshop presenters and volunteers for the five-day event. Vendors will have the opportunity to display their merchandise in a prime locale at the Conference. Workshop presenters are needed to provide information to participants on issues of relevance to the community. Volunteers are needed to provide support for the Conference structure.

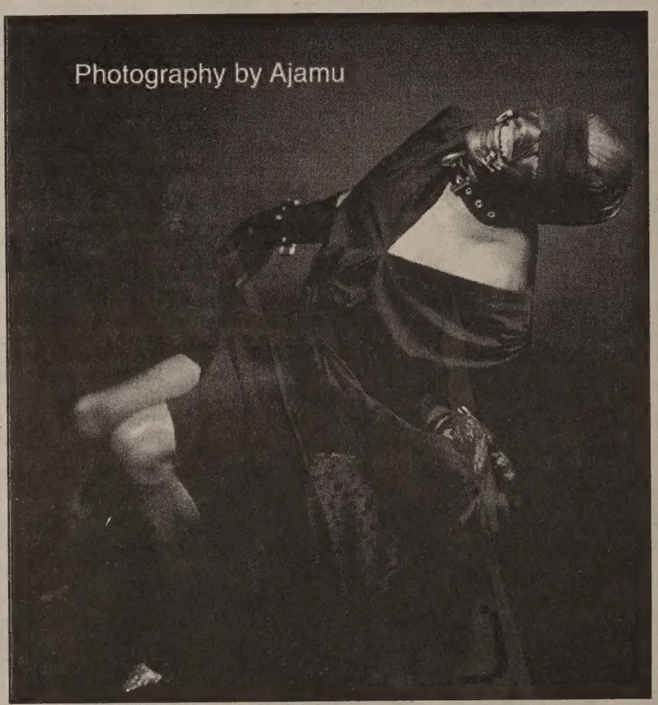
The Conference is also soliciting individuals from around the country to serve as local links to the Conference. These individuals will be responsible for receiving and disseminating Conference information to individuals in there respective cities and states. These individuals will also be instrumental in the organizing of local fundraising efforts for the 1997 Conference Scholarship Fund.

The FORUM will also sponsor several fundraising events around the country to raise money for the 1997 Conference Scholarship Fund. All revenue collected will go towards providing scholarships for PWA's and individuals with chronic illnesses.

For more information please contact the FORUM at 213.964.7820.

LESBIANS, GAYS AND BISEXUALS WANT MORE SMOKEFREE PLACES TO SOCIALIZE

San Francisco, CA—-A series of focus groups, conducted over the last year by the California Lavender Smokefree Project and local health departments, show that while lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders smoke more than the national average, participants did not believe that higher smoking rates were related to sexual orientation. Participants, including smokers and non-smokers, believe that the higher rates were attributed to the lack of smokefree places to socialize.



The focus groups were conducted over the last year to get a "snapshot" of the community's attitude toward tobacco use and the tobacco industry after a 1994 survey concluded that LGBT adults smoke at higher rates than many other populations. Among adults aged 35 and over, 35.4 percent of gay men and 38.1 percent of lesbians smoke, compared to 27.1 percent of all men and 22.0 percent of all women in the same age group (American Journal of Public Health, August 1994, Vol. 84 No. 8). The focus group participants did *not* believe that this was linked to sexuality. Most of the participants who smoked responded that they began smoking between the ages of 14 to 18 because of "peer pressure" or "weight control" or "advertising"—the same reasons that many other young persons give for smoking.

Participants also felt that the LGBT community smokes at a higher rate than other communities because of the socializing in bars and clubs. Participants, including smokers, expressed a desire for more smokefree places where the LGBT community can socialize.

The study also revealed that participants read and trust their local LGBT newspapers and national publications and that the major advertisers in those publications were "...booze, cigarettes and life insurance." They felt that this perpetuated a negative stereotype, but was a "necessary evil" to support the publications.

Participants also felt a responsibility to provide good role models for young LGBT adults.

Four focus groups were conducted in all: two in San Francisco and one each in Los Angeles and San Diego. There were a total of 35 persons representing the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. Participants offered opinions about major brand advertising, health concerns in the lesbigay community, attitudes about smoking and the tobacco industry's political contributions.

"Why do we smoke more than other populations?" asks Bob Gordon, member of the California Lavender Smokefree Project. "We wanted to find out why smoking is so accepted in our community and turn that around." Gordon points out that the tobacco industry has been openly marketing to the lesbian and gay community since 1992 with cigarette ads in LGBT publications and on billboards in the neighborhoods. He adds, "The industry has even conducted its own focus groups for cigarette tasting in our neighborhoods! It's time to respond."

The California Lavender Smokefree Project will use this information to conduct a three-pronged campaign in the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles and San Diego. In each area, "resource teams" of volunteers will work on projects that counter the tobacco industry's growing influence in the LGBT community. For instance, in San Diego, a counter-advertisement has been developed by a local artist and will be placed throughout the Hillcrest area. In Los Angeles, a television public service announcement aimed at young LGBT adults is being developed in alliance with The Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, the City of West Hollywood and Project Y.E.S. in the Bay Area, and matchbooks with anti-tobacco and pro-health messages are being designed and distributed in San Francisco bars.

For more information on how to get involved in the California Lavender Smokefree Project, call 415.956.1811.

BLACK BRITISH QUEER FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHER, AJAMU, SEEKS PROVOCATIVE MODELS

London, England—-Noted Black Brit Fine Arts Photographer, Ajamu, whose work has been gallery showcased throughout the world and in the pages of most American Black homosexual publications is looking for provocative models for his latest photographic project, entitled *Inciting Desires*. He is seeking "Black/Asian perverts of all sexuality's...singles/couples, a thing or act that dares to give voice to the forbidden zones of the imagination and the shadow regions of the heart: Someone with physical or extreme abnormalities. Anyone with interesting body parts, pierced, stretched, mutilated. Pre-Op Transsexuals, Anorexics, Dwarfs, Albinos. Individuals who are grotesquely obese, extremely hirsute or suffering from Alopecia. SM Practitioners and Bondage fetishists. Body Artists who operate on the margins of performance art."

Please send a photograph, telephone number and brief letter to: Ajamu c/o Box 12281/ London SW9 9ZQ/ England.

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THE TIME IS NOW!

by Dorinda G. Henry

A clock is a device that measures and indicates *time*. It does this by counting 31,536,000 seconds per year. What is *time*? To get a better understanding of what *time* is, I went to the dictionary and found that *time* is defined as "every moment there has ever been and will ever be; The period during which something exists or happens." The Bible tells us that "To every thing there is a season and a *time* to every purpose. There is a *time* to be born and a *time* to die. There's a *time* to break down and a *time* to build up. There's a *time* to weep and a *time* to laugh; a *time* to mourn and a *time* to dance. There a *time* to speak. And the *TIME* IS NOW.

It's *time* to speak about being the sons and daughters of former slaves and former slave owners, of Kings and Queens, indentured servants, maids, janitors, porters and civil rights activists whose lives have left a legacy and caused this nation to pause and ponder, "what manner of people are these."

Who speaks for them? We do.

We are one and the same; to survive day by day, wrestling with poverty, healing broken bones, scrubbing floors, fighting oppression, trying to teach our children right from wrong, breaking down barriers and talking to the Lord, because no one else cares to listen. We are those who must hide in the military and those who refuse to hide and who continue to ask the question, "if not today, then when?"

Who speaks for us?

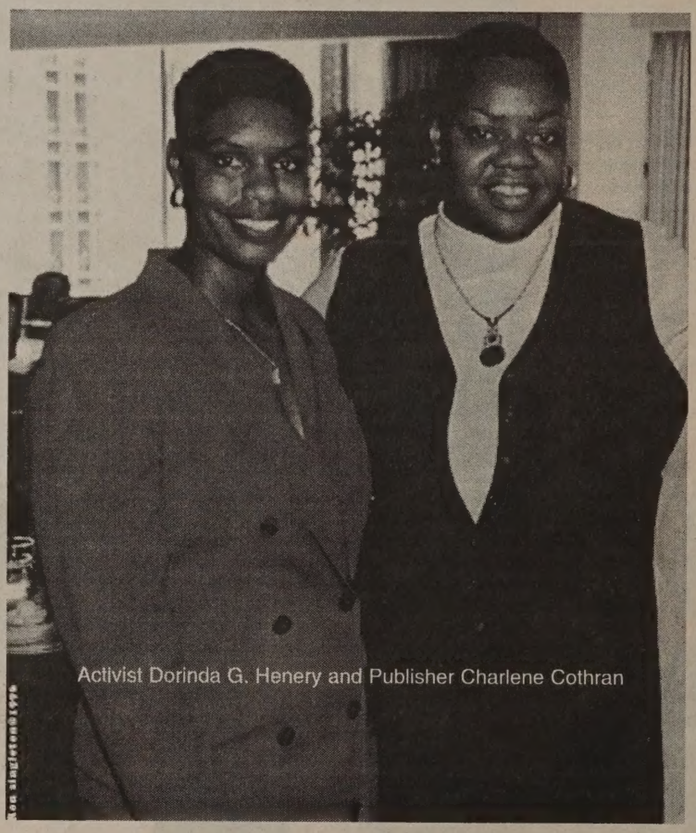
We are those battered men and women who hurt in the name of love. Those who are living with and dying of AIDS, who have not the gift of *time* or the words to express our inexpressible pain. The *time* is now for us to shed some light on the lives of those who don't look forward to tomorrow's sunrise. They, you, me, we've been left in the darkness for far too long.

Who speaks for us? We do. We must.

We are African American lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people who refuse to accept someone else's definition of who we are and how we are; where we're going and how we'll get there. We are those who don't have the luxury of being a monolithic-issue-oriented community and those who have had enough of being confined, restrained, stifled, marginalized and choked to death by a multicolored rainbow flag.

Who speaks for us? We do. We must.

We've lived and yearned with a silent scream and have fallen deaf to the voices of our past, present and future. On the one hand, the silent scream has left us unheard, invisible, seemingly unaffected, ineffective, locked out, ignored, disregarded, disrespected, overtaxed, misrepresented and under-represented, used, misused and forgotten.



Activist Dorinda G. Henery and Publisher Charlene Cothran

On the other hand, the thunderous voices of Audre Lorde, Bayard Rustin, James Baldwin and Pat Parker are slowly penetrating and approaching the earth's surface. And some of us have overheard those conversations coming out of *Giovanni's Room*, between Audre and James, while the analytical tactician Bayard and Pat figure out a way to use that bridge called her back to get a message across and down to us that *time* is running out.

Some of us have stood still long enough to feel the earth shaking from the prophetic visionary Martin Luther King Jr.--whose life and legacy have been reduced to soundbites and whose message has been picked apart by culture vultures--crying out at the top of his heavenly voice, "How Long?"

How long will you allow yourselves to be pigeonholed by the Black community?

"How Long?"

How long will you allow the broader gay and lesbian community to dictate when and where you enter?

"How Long?"

How long will you allow some of these "Holy Anointed" backbiting, backsliding, blaspheming, hypocritical preachers who got a collect call from God to tell you what God has and has not said?

"How Long?"

Not long, because as of this second, this moment in *time*, we will stand for those who cannot, speak for those who can't, don't or won't. Starting today, we must join the ranks of our sisters and brothers across this land who have stepped out from the shadows of obscurity and into the light of visibility and activism. From California to Atlanta, from Detroit to Washington D.C., the African American LGBT communities are stepping out and galvanizing support from our numbers. Let them stand as an example to us all that in every city, in every situation and under every circumstance there will always be those who will *make* things happen. Then there will be those who will *watch* things happen. Then there will be those who will sit and wonder *what* has happened.

The call has gone out and, in the words of Jesse Jackson, "it's morning *time*." *Time* to wake up, *time* to get up, *time* to stand up. Now is the *time* to get back into the political and get registered to vote. We must also understand that it's not enough to simply register to vote. We must go to the polls and vote.

It's *time* to stop casting our votes for someone else because he or she is gay or lesbian or because they profess to represent the African American community and start thinking enough of ourselves to start considering and preparing to be candidates ourselves.

It's *time* to send a message to the broader gay and lesbian community that racial arrogance can no longer claim racial ignorance as an excuse.

It's *time* to send a message to heterosexual Christians that they don't own the copyright on spirituality and Christianity, and that to be a "good" Christian is to love unconditionally, and to show and express kindness, understanding and humility.

Time.

There are 31,536,000 seconds in a year. Each second representing every moment there has and will ever be. We are facing the 21st century with a resurgence of racist extremist engaging in domestic terrorism, attacks on women and immigrant's rights, setbacks in civil rights legislation and laws every day. The fight for lesbian and gay rights, like the women's movement, has increasingly become a movement represented by a white face.

The *TIME* IS NOW. It's *time* to take a stand, take a position, *our* position. It's *time* to stand for something, or we'll fall and continue to fall for *anything*.

[Dorinda G. Henry is a Seattle-based political and community activist who has worked as the legislative assistant to the first "out" African American lesbian to be elected to a political office. At 30, Ms. Henry is the youngest member on the Board of the Seattle Chapter of the NAACP where she also heads their voter registration drive. She is also a student at Seattle University majoring in Religious and Theological studies.]

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CARY ALAN JOHNSON EXECUTIVE DIRECTS GMAD BACK TO THE HOOD

by Stanley Bennett Clay

As Africentric homosexuals mobilize in the spirit of self-reliance across the nation, the revamping, rethinking and reorganizing of many of the national and local organizations serving our specific community are par for the course. The recent shift to a more Africentric stance by the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, it's appointment of Keith Boykin as it's Executive Director, the plans to re-locate it's main office to Washington D.C. and their strong alliance recently forged with the Black Gay Media Network are the first sparks igniting a new era of Black-first homosexual consciousness.

The continuos work of Cleo Manago, one of the earliest advocates of the Africentric same-gender loving movement, within the bosom of the Black community continues to give visibility to the diversity of Africentricity. Black folk everywhere and of every sexual nature are coming to realize that our link is a family link, and within that family are all kinds of black family members—-homosexuals included.

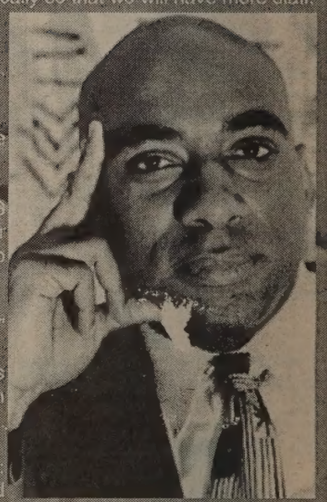
In spite of the Christian Reich's efforts to divide Blackfolk into hetero- and homosexual camps, Blackfolk are coming to see that self-reliance and unity has about as much to do with family separation based on sexual nature as family separation based on the lightness or darkness of one's skin. Africentrics are a diverse group and come in all colors, sexes and natures. Understanding and maintaining the link—-not breaking it—-is the key.

Gay Men of African Descent (GMAD), New York City's well known and well-respected advocacy, support and HIV service organization currently celebrating it's ten year anniversary, is determined to maintain that link. It's recent appointment of Cary Alan Johnson as Executive Director is one distinctive new effort to strengthen the ties-by-birth of all Black men in the New York area as he blue-prints a plan to guide the organization into an active familial relationship with the heterosexual Brothers and Sisters of Brooklyn.

"We want to start a dialogue with straight Brothers and Sisters about what they feel about gay people, what are they afraid of, what threatens them, what are they confused about," said Johnson, a Brother well known for his activism; In 1994 and 1995 he was Country Representative with the international aid organization Africare in Kigali, Rwanda, where he developed and administered an array of crucial emergency relief programs during that nation's period of civil strife. He has also worked with the United Nation High Commission for Refugees, in Bukavu, Zaire, served as a Regional Director for Amnesty International (AI) in Washington, D.C. and as a Country Resource Coordinator at AI's New York headquarters. As well, he is a founding member of the New York-based Black gay literary arts organization, *Other Countries*.

"We also want Black gays and lesbians who live in the community to feel supported in their choice to remain in the Black community," Johnson continued, "that is why part of our plan is to physically move [the offices of GMAD] into the Black community. Right now, we're in The Village. Now to a great extent these days The Village *is* the Black gay community. The white boys have moved up to Chelsea and have abandoned Christopher Street to us. I'd say that 75% of the people you meet up and down Christopher Street are Black and Latino gay men, which is a tremendous resource for us because we can reach a lot of our community in terms of the leafleting we do, the tables we set up. The Village is one of our communities, but we don't live here, so one thing we want to do is move the organization into the African American community. The emergence of Fort Green (in Brooklyn) as a Black gay community is significant. A number of Black gay organizations are located there: The Audre Lorde Project, The People of Color Crisis.

"There are three things that I'm talking about specifically when I speak of our growth. The first is an expansion of our youth program. We have a program that's been around for about a year called *YO GMAD*, which is a support group for Black gay teens. We're now writing grants and doing all kinds of fundraising to expand the program dramatically so that we will have more staff, counselors and a drop-in center for Black gay teens in the Black community.



"We're starting a hot line—-a warm line really—-that will have a national impact. A line that Black gay teens can call and get counseling on everything: school, HIV, parents, whatever kinds of issues they need to be dealing with.

"A mentoring program which will make use of GMAD'S 2,000 strong membership of adult Black gay men will be starting up soon. These are men who have a lot to give to our youth and who want to, but the mechanism hasn't been there for that, so that is another expansion move that we're undertaking.

"We are also starting programs for Black gay seniors, men over 50. We just hired a gentlemen as a senior peer trainer. We recognize that the HIV/AIDS rates among gay seniors are rising because there hasn't been outreach and education to that community for a lot of reasons, one being the ageism in our community. Now I don't think that Black men perpetrate the kind of ageism you see in the white gay community, but we do it as well. So, GMAD wants to create a space for older Black gay men to come together, to talk about their issues and to plan social gatherings and unite for political activism.

"We want GMAD to be a broader organization than it was before. We want GMAD to be an over-arching, all encompassing multi-service organization for all."

But strategy for the future has not slowed down the GMAD activities of the here and now. Their famed Friday night group discussion gatherings, oftentimes featuring prominent gay and nongay speakers with something pertinent to share regarding the Africentric homosexual state of affairs are more popular than ever.

GMAD, in association with African Ancestral Lesbians United for Social Change, recently hosted a Town Meeting on the subject of Same-Sex Marriages: Black Perspectives, with a panel that featured Lambda Legal Defense lawyer Kim Kirkley, Esq., Harvard University's K. Anthony Appiah, Ph.D., Artist and Community Organizer Jacquie Bishop, Empire State Pride Agenda's former Program Director Clarence Patton and former Mayoral Liaison to the Lesbian and Gay Community Doctor Marjorie Hill.

On October 4th, GMAD will host David Hajdu, author of *Lush life: A Biography of Billy Strayhorn*. The author will be on hand to sign books and discuss the life of the famed arranger, lyricist and composer of such classics as "Take The 'A' Train," "Lush Life" and "Something to Live For" who from 1939 until his death in 1967 was Duke Ellington's "right-hand" man. Strayhorn, living his life as an open homosexual, was embraced and revered by a wide range of friends, from Lena Horne to members of the Copasetics fraternal organization.

On October 18th, GMAD then will host a discussion and book-signing for novelist James Earl Hardy regarding his *B-Boy Blues* sequel, *2nd Time Around*.

"GMAD as an organization has changed a lot, not just around staff, but around it's volunteer leadership, specifically, it's Board, and that is really where the vision of the organization comes from, the Board. We have a new Board Chairman, Kenneth Tolbert, so I think what we're in is a period of stabilizing and solidifying the organization in preparation for a period of growth which, I think, is going to come in the early part of next year. We want to serve not just certain segments of the community, not just middle class men in their 30's, we want to serve the entire Black gay community."

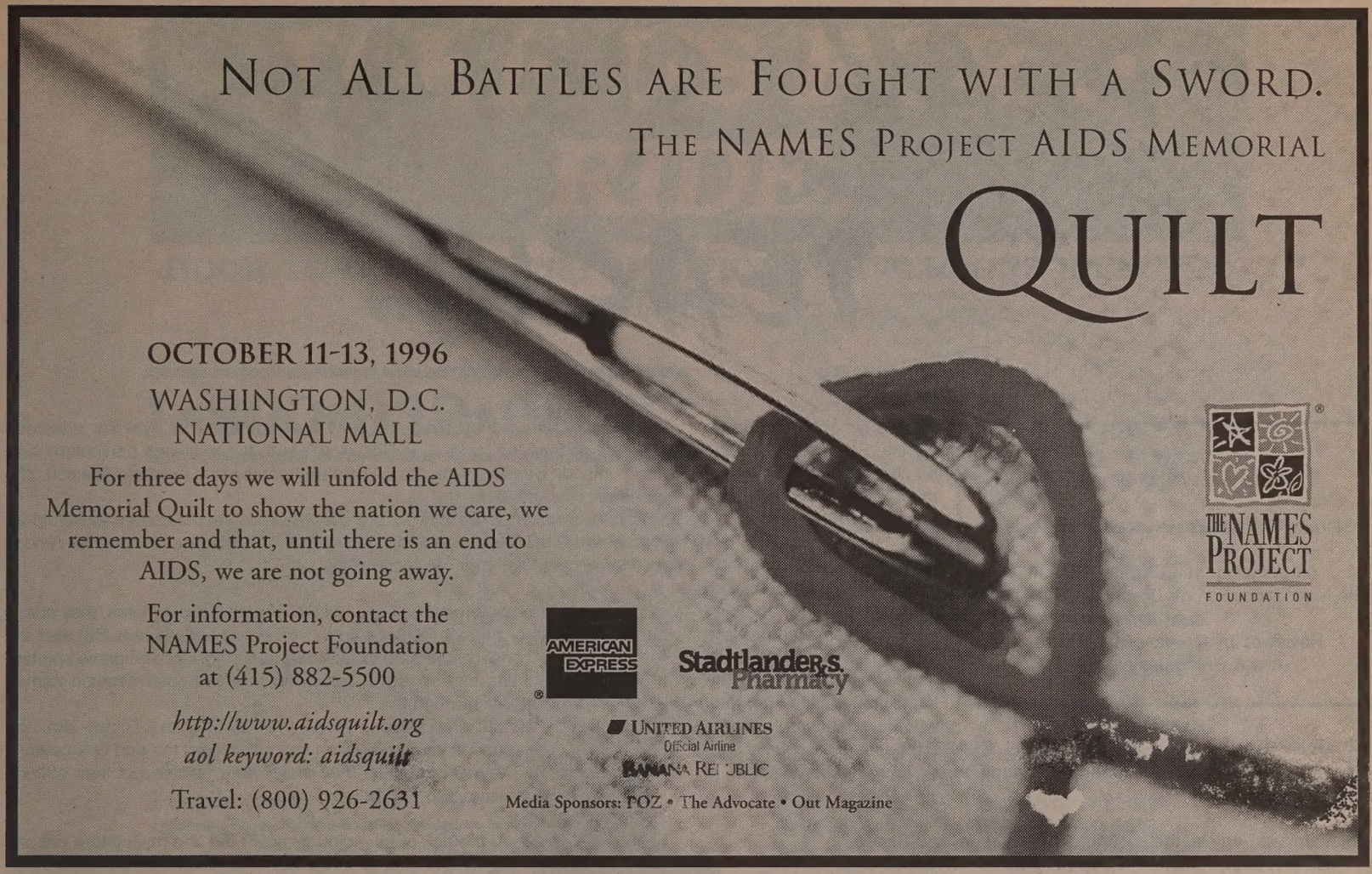
Johnson also wants it known that GMAD is on active search for funds to launch an anti-gay and lesbian violence project in the South Brooklyn area.

"We acknowledge the fact that organizations such as the Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project is doing great work in Chelsea, in The Village, on the Upper West Side, in many parts of Queens, but we have the responsibility to address the issue of violence against homosexuals in the African American community. That is our responsibility and no one else's. We can't rely on white gay organizations to do that for us. We are now talking about billboards and ad campaigns, a series of high school workshops, meetings and workshops in African American churches.

And Johnson, a 35 year old native of Brooklyn, has never lost sight of the primary focus of the organization he helped start 10 years ago and now directs:

"We're a New York organization and we will continue to do programs that impact the people of New York, but we want to disseminate the effects of that information nationally. Even our anti-gay and lesbian violence programs in the Black community could have a national impact, however, we are not turning into a national organization. But we do think that we have something to teach to and learn from other Black gay men throughout this country. We also want to make GMAD a home away from home for Brothers outside of New York who are interested in our issues."

For more information about Gay Men of African Decent, call them at 212.420.0773, or Fax them at 212.982.1182.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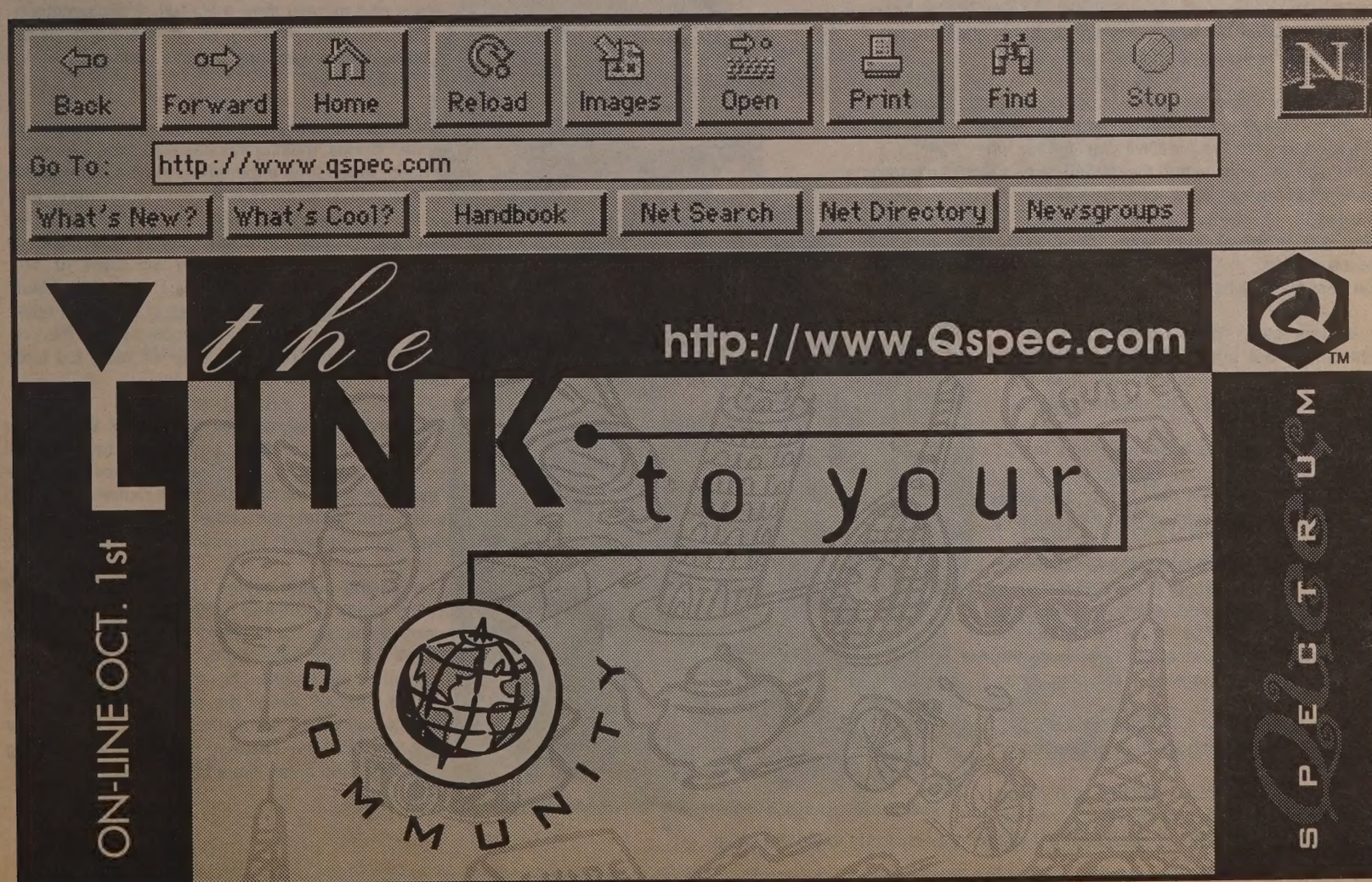
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HAVING OUR SAY
a stage play by Emily Mann

starring Frances Foster and Lynne Thigpen

now playing thru October 27, 1997
The Mark Taper Forum, Downtown Los Angeles

Reviewed by Gregory Eugene Travis
Arts & Entertainment Editor

A few days ago, Miss Sarah Louise "Sadie" Delaney had another birthday. How time must fly when you're a hundred and seven year old best selling author. Her slightly younger sister and co-author, Annie Elizabeth "Bessie" Delaney passed on a few years ago at age 104 but she must surely have been proud of the legacy left behind after their wildly successful book, *Having Our Say*, (co-authored with AMY HILL HEARTH) became an equally popular stage play last year and currently on stage here in Los Angeles at the Mark Taper Forum.

Sadie, born in Virginia, the second of ten children, and Bessie, next born in North Carolina may as well have been named sugar and spice, respectively. Gentile, though they may be, they are anything but reserved. Early on, the acerbic Bessie says quite bluntly, "I'm a hundred and one and at my age, honey, I can say what I want!" The audience dies laughing, the tone set, knowing we're in for the ride of a lifetime.

The Delaney sisters begin their true-to-life tale by taking us back—-way back—-in time, before their own births (1889 and 1891 respectively) to pre-Civil War Virginia when their father was still a slave and their mother was a mixed race woman who "could have passed" for white if she'd wanted to. A woman who instead married their brown-skinned father because he was the best man for her.

It is their stern, middle-class father for whom they are preparing a favorite meal made yearly in homage to his memory when the play opens. The sisters peel real oranges, shred carrots, prepare and bake ham and roast chicken right before our very eyes as they tell us of this country's past hundred years. The illusion or "concept" is that they speak to an interviewer as they recall their full, full lives.

But, of course, they speak directly to us as if we are a young member of the family querying Gramma/Me-maw/Nanna, as if she were the world's eldest and greatest climbing tree; roots cradling the heart of the earth, tender topmost branches tickling the feet of heaven. Grandma.
Told in their living room, kitchen and dining room (brought vividly and convincingly to life by set designer, EDWARD E. HAYNES) the sisters not only bring to life the several periods in which they lived but how they survived as well as educated "Negroes" or "maiden ladies," as Bessie refers to them. In one particularly harrowing episode Bessie relates how, while on her way to a teaching position, she was nearly lynched after telling off a drunken white man who'd assumed his sexual advances would be reciprocated. Theirs were genteel lives lived in a not so gentle time for African Americans, particularly for our Sisters.

While racism permeates the fabric of all of the Sisters Delaney tales, they speak without bitterness or hatred. Perhaps time has healed old wounds. But also the sisters' conservative sensibilities and seemingly indefatigable spiritedness and sense of self-worth and self-determination carried them through the Great Depression, World War II, the Civil Rights era, the spend til ya drop 80's on onward toward the end of a century. They all but tell us they're still here because of their attitude toward life.

At the risk of sounding cynical I did find myself torn not so much about whether these heroines are realistically portrayed while telling their side of things, but rather, why they seem to be more extraordinary for their personal ethics and morays than a life full of achievements. The undercurrent being: Wow! there actually are Black people with their positive outlook resilience is bothersome.

Hopefully, *Having Our Say* will inspire others to tell their stories, making this one less exotic. And perhaps, at least as importantly, maybe more young people will be inspired to ask their elders about their pasts, their own family histories, and to document them. As the play tours our country again and as Sadie Delaney's next book, *On My Own At 107: Reflections On Life Without Bessie* (with Ms. Heath again collaborating), hits bookstores in early '97, hopefully tens of thousands of young people will see this production and (again hopefully) they will carry the torch onward.

So, in the near future, take a gaggle of kids to see this show. Too few of our youth have any historical sense of the African American presence, let alone "experience." Black or white, you'll probably open up a universe of dialogue neither of you knew existed or needed to be unlocked.

The sterling performances of FRANCES FOSTER as the gentle Sadie and LYNN THIGPEN's tempestuous Bessie are full of charm and grace. Playwright EMILY MANN's script deftly balances humor with poignancy, the laughter is non-stop. Director WALTER DALLAS keeps the pace crisp and all production values are first rate, making *Having Our Say* and the Delaney sisters worth hearing again and again like a favorite old melody.

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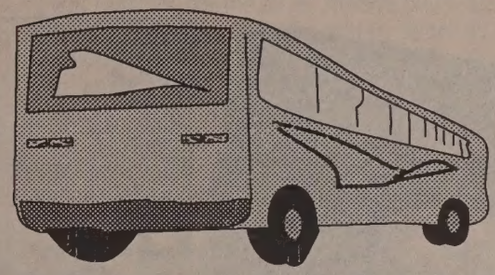

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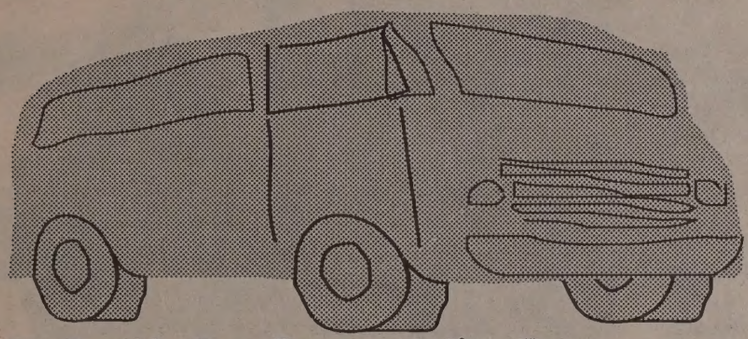

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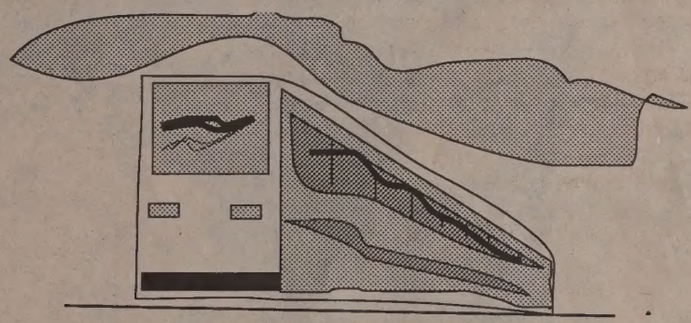

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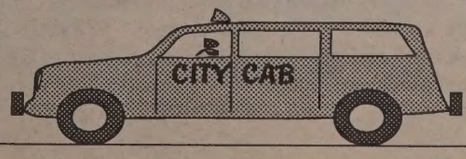

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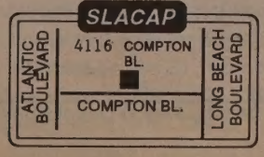
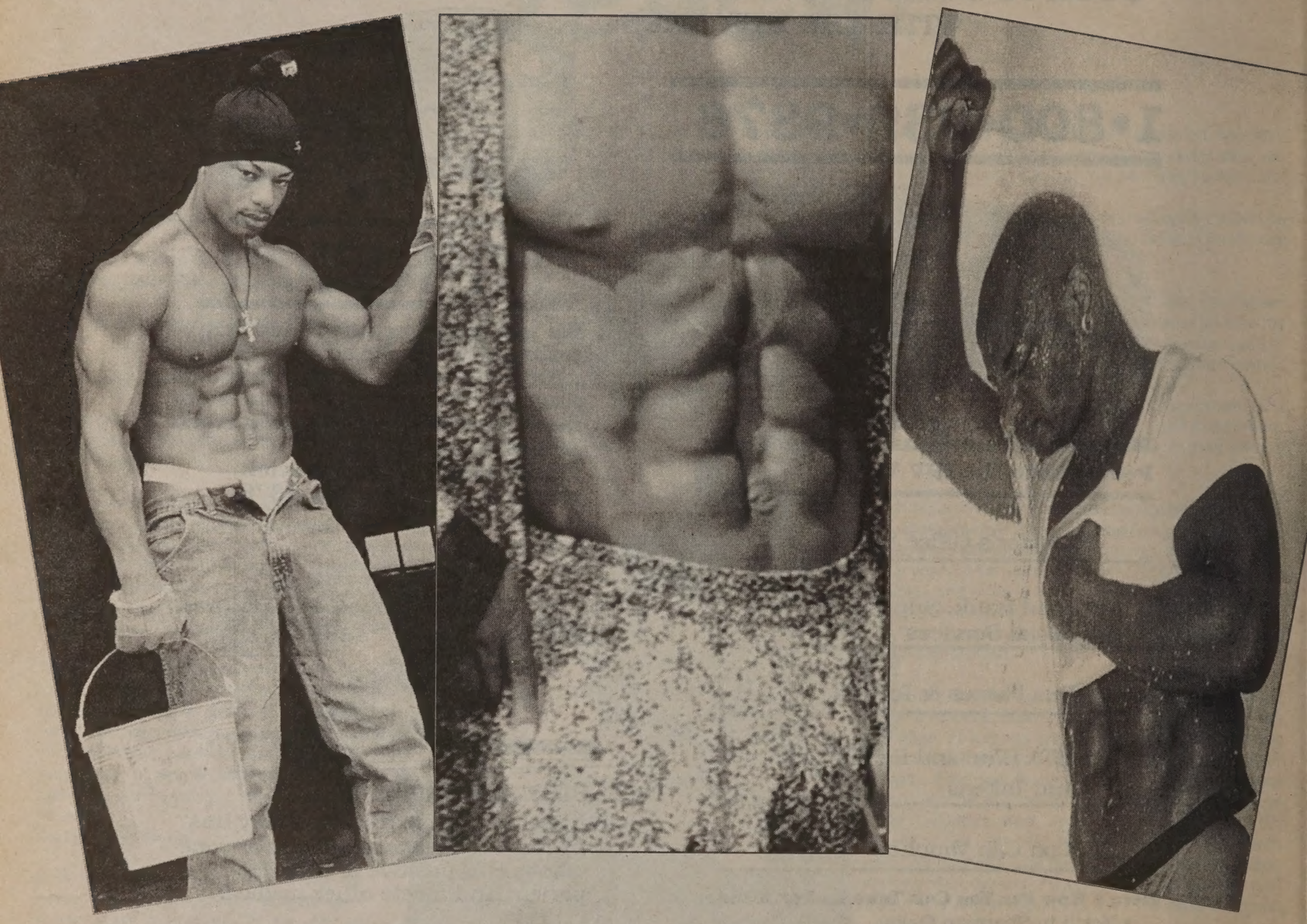


Funded by RYAN WHITE Comprehensive AIDS Research Emergency (CARE ACT) 1990

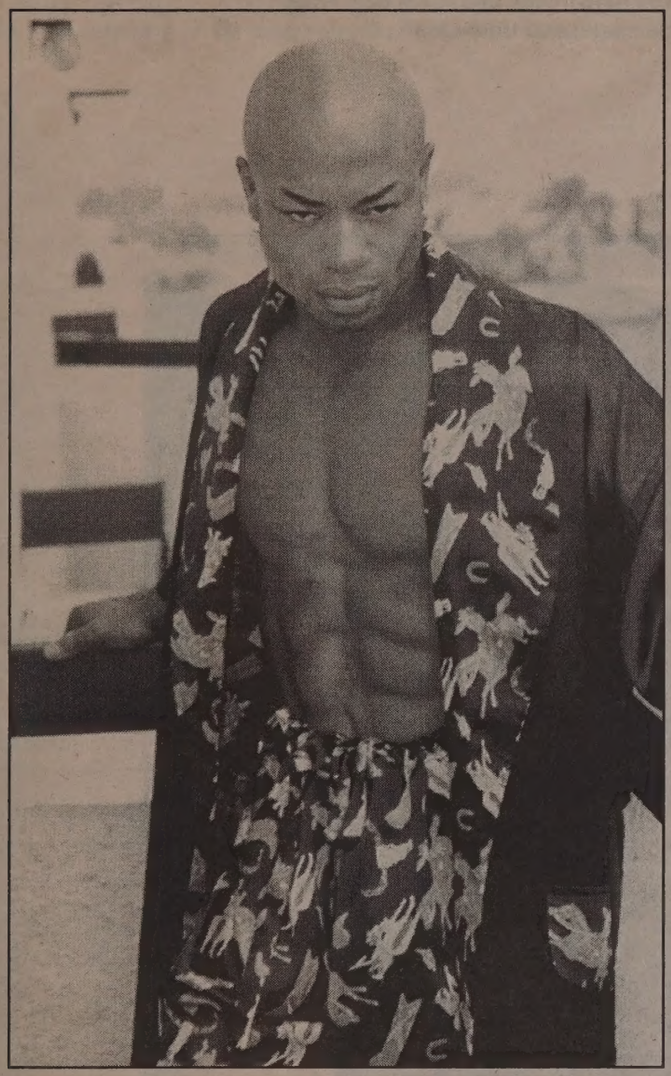
On the Down Low



Styling and Text by Orlando Robinson, Fashion Editor.
Photography by Greg Mencal.
Model, Andre McCoy.

Jumpin' Jack flash. Been to work, been to the gym, and now it's time to play. Lookin' good, smellin' good, and now it's time to release the goods. L L got me loungin' while this 'Living Single' got me clownin' . . . there's nothing black or white about this. Temperature rising, economizing , got money to spend. Got my gear under, adidas lookin' fly, be mine as I wear my CK, exist with me to be two, let's sauvage into one. Nothing that I wear goes under. Nothing that I wear lollops (almost nothing).

On the left, underwear by 2(x)ist. In the middle, leopard print pajamas set with charmuese trimming, both by Regi D'Lee of Comfort Zone. And on the right, scoop neck T-shirt by Undergear and underwear by Sauvage.



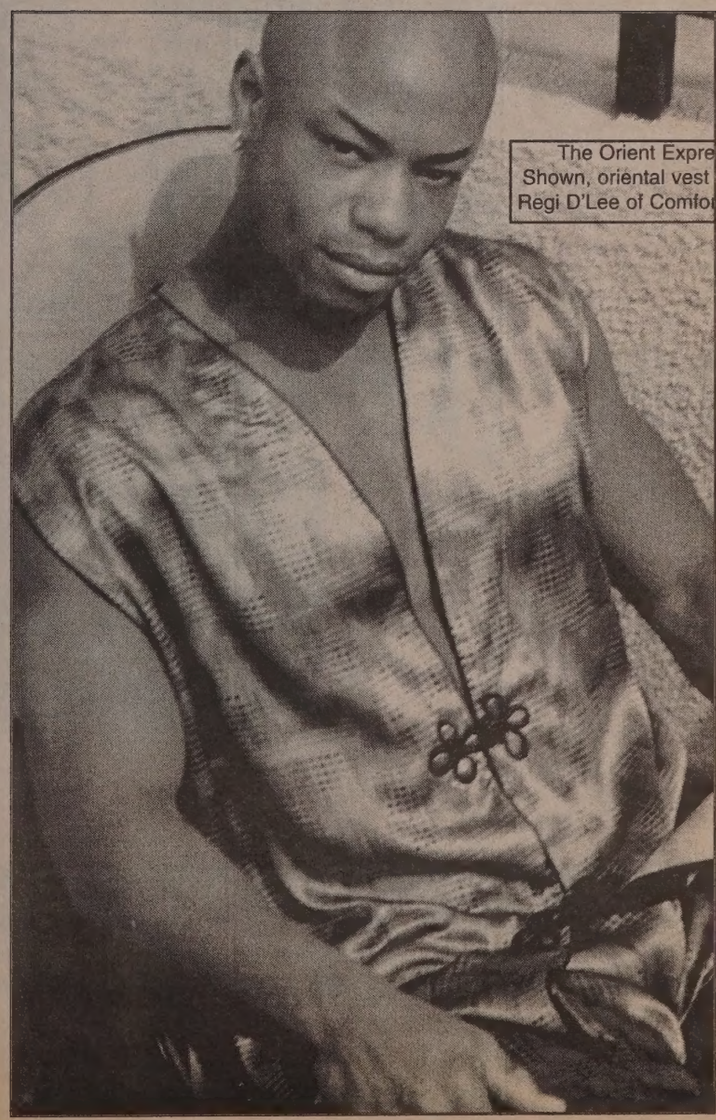
Wild, Wild, West. Black reversable cowboy robe and pant, both by Regi D'Lee of Comfort Zone.

Underwear has become synonymous with Calvin Klein, but advertising and good marketing can get you anything. Sabotage, Sabotage, Sabotage! Joe Boxer emerges as the next super power and then the rest is up for grabs like a basement sale at Marshall Field's. Sauvage, Chereskin, Undergear, and 2(x) ist. It's the bottom of the ninth and Adidas has pulled out of the game. Karl Kani comes in as designated hitter. On the bench like a dedicated-need-to-be fan instead of a sidelined substitute are BVD, Hanes, Stafford and Fruit of the Loom.- No Sex Appeal Required.

Looking for fabrics: get Ribbed on , go healthy with Organic, be environmental with Recycled, pure sexy in Silk, comfortable in Cotton, go 3rd rock form the sun while hangin' with your homies in outerspace in Spandex, Sheer, Lace, Net, or Rubber. It won't take 60 minutes to tell you about the appeal of flannel. Your neck doesn't have to be rough with styles offered in high, V, low, and scoop. Sleeves vary from the usual long length in short, sleeveless, tank and muscle tank designs. Go au naturalle at home in a robe or smoking jacket. If you're like most when it comes to the DL, you can choose from the basic bikini or show a little skin with a string bikini. for the athletically inclined, try a jock, thong, cycling short, or sport brief. Feelin' kinda regular? Stick to the bodacious basic brief or try the punctuating pouncing pouch brief. Showing at a theater near you: The Boxer. Not even the system of Jenny weighs anywhere near these three solutions for the challenged figure: waistline adjusters, butt shapers, and pouch definers.

The last thing that anyone wants from underwear is to be uncomfortable and the last thing that we want to see is you reaching for the stars. Always buy a size larger when purchasing undergarments by specialty stores and non traditional manufacturers. What defines that word comfortable? The point to where the undergarment fits snug and there are no gaps between the legs, in the waist, or in the buttocks. What do more African American men prefer sportin',..and what does every body else prefer to see them sportin'? It's all in the boxers.

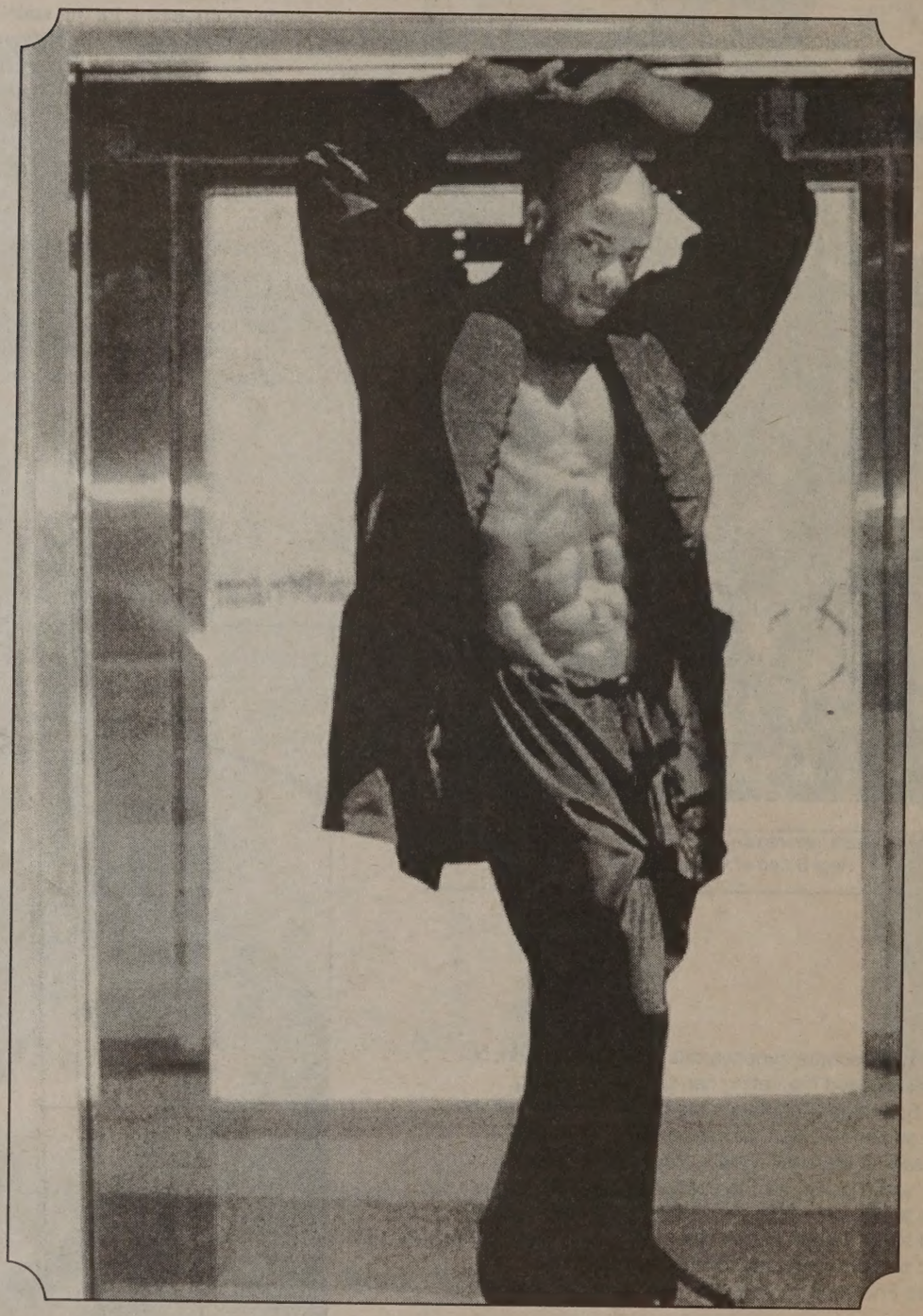
Special thanks to Valentino La Fontaine for the use of his uninhabited apartment. Check out the 'gear' from Regi D'Lee of Comfort Zone. Plenty of his garments can be found in specialty stores all around the country. Call for a catalog. Place an order. He's a brother doin' much business. If you watched the opening of the Lady of



The Orient Express. Shown, oriental vest set, by Regi D'Lee of Comfort Zone.

Soul Awards, you saw many of his creations on the twelve dancers and on the upcoming diva herself, Ms. Braxton, that's Toni if your not one of her sisters. In plain African American English: His designs are PHAT!

Clothing by Regi D'Lee of Comfort Zone, (800) 633-4768 and (213) 627-7739.
Underwear by 2(x)ist, Adidas, Sauvage, and Undergear.

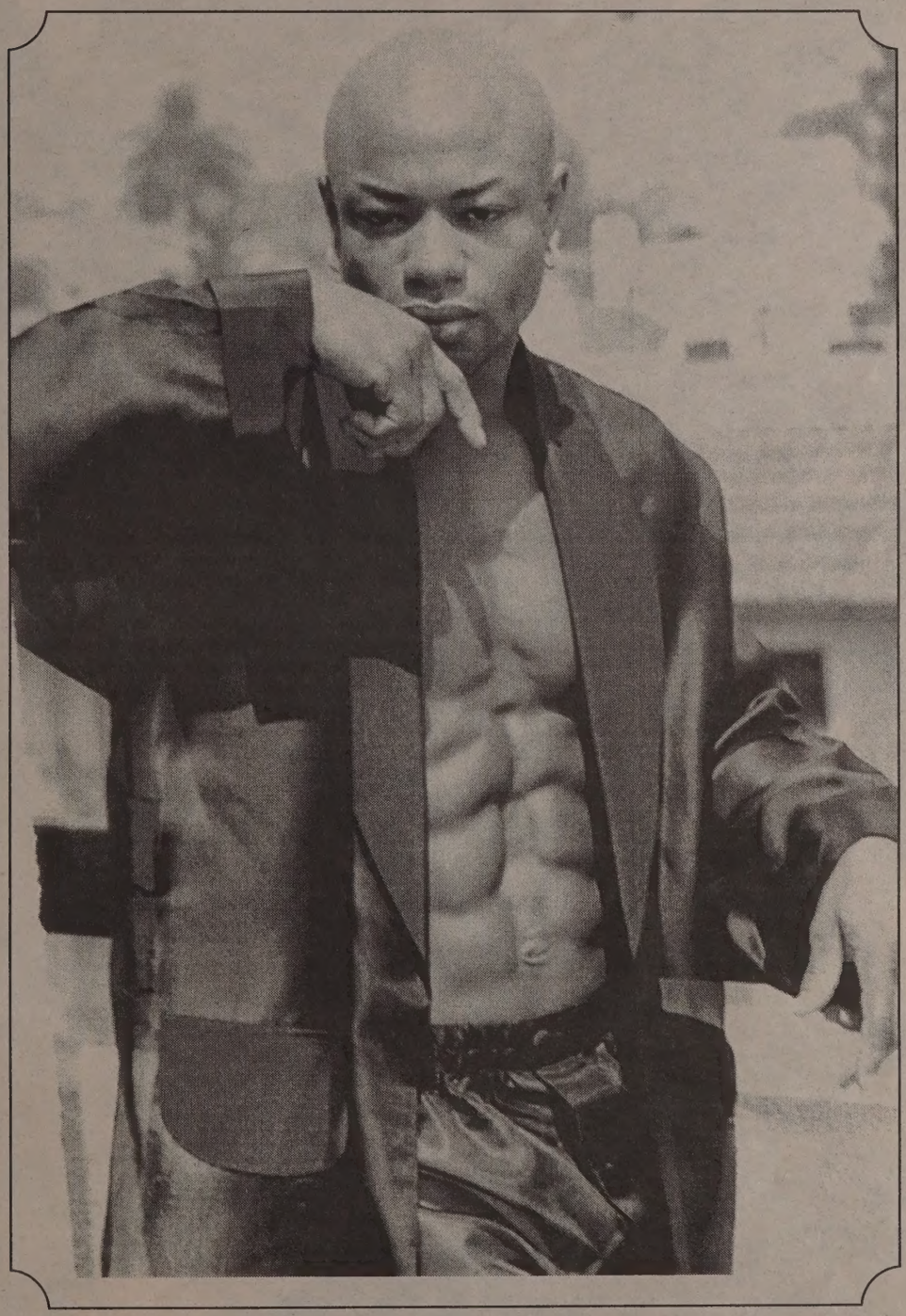


On the left, model wears a black crepe de' chin smoking jacket with quilted collar and matching pant.

Fashion File: September 27, Macy's and American Express presents Passport'96, a fashion extravaganza to benefit several AIDS organizations, to include the Magic Johnson Foundation, Project Angel Food, and the UCLA AIDS Institute. The event will be hosted by Magic Johnson and the drag diva herself, Ru Paul. Tickets are on sale and can be obtained through Ticket master at (213) 480-3232, for VIP, call (310) 785-0201. Special guest designers include Mossimo Giannulli, Vivenne Tam, and David Chu of Nautica. Famed Photographer Peter Lindbergh is being featured in exhibit at the Fahey-Klein Gallery at 148 N. La Brea until October 12 before going to Tokyo, Paris and New

York. Autographed copies of his book, 10 Women by Peter Lindbergh, are available for $35, which features the black Bardot herself, Naomi Campbell. October 4 - 10 brings the Look International Sportswear Show to Los Angeles. October 12 through October 19 - Products of Compton will be featured at the Martin Luther King, Jr., Transit Center, which will feature local artists that are from the Compton community. The actual gathering and display is for communal youth career awareness. If you're in the city, check it out! Need more info? Call (310) 603-5363. And speaking of the drag diva, Ru Paul's sophomore album comes out later this month on Rhino Records, 'Foxxy Lady'. The first single

Total comfort in a black organza robe and sheer black organza short. All by Regi D'Lee of Comfort Zone.



Centerfold page underwear by none other than Adidas.

will be titled 'Snapshot', but you don't have to wait until then to see the entertainer. His calendar with Landmark is in bookstores now and debuting October 12 will be his own talk show on VH-1. Check your local listings. Word has it that there is a baby grand piano on the set and that the audience sits at tables of two and three in a club environment.

adidas adidas adidas

BILL WHITTEN

ONE ON ONE WITH FASHION DESIGNER

The world has been appraising his work as fine art for some 30 years. This veteran Hollywood-based designer has been responsible for making some of the biggest stars—Neil Diamond, Lionel Richie, Michael and Janet Jackson, and Diana Ross and Janet Jackson, just to name a few—shine their brightest. His image making expertise has redefined mere performers into legendary status. 'The Whitten look', a phrase that is spoken around the world, consists of dramatic, vibrant stage costumes and exquisite haute couture created in the richest of fabrics. Whitten is one of the first designers to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland.

He is Bill Whitten.

ERIK ASTON: You've done show business, and you have also worked retail. Which came first?

BILL WHITTEN: Manufacturing. After leaving school, and while in school I was fortunate to find a job with a company called 'Charm of Hollywood'. And I did junior dresses, junior sports wear, and about four or five lines while in school. For the type of school I went to, a technical fashion college, they had connections with the industry, so it was easier to start in the industry in Hollywood.

EA: Did you start doing men's clothes, or women's?

BW: I started doing women's clothing first—

EA: —And is there a preference?

BW: No,..no, no. I started doing women's clothes for pay first. I should say it that way. But men's clothing I did as soon as I learned how to make a pair of pants. I always made clothing for myself and my family.

EA: One of my favorite stories about you is: you were the youngest of five kids, and you didn't like wearing their 'hand me downs'.

BW: (laughing) I was the youngest of five boys, and my mother was a seamstress. She supported us by sewing. She didn't want to leave the house because she was single parent and she wanted to stay in the house and make a living. And she did it through sewing. I always went to bed to the sound of a sewing machine. My mother would buy fabric from the traveling fabric salesman. She would buy enough for two boys, Jackie and Jesse, and what was left from the remaining fabric, she would make my outfit. I think my starting was sort of a rebellion against my mother making my clothing. She even made my cub scout suit. So that did it!

EA: So you knew at an early age that designing was what you wanted?

BW: I knew at an early age that I wanted better clothing to wear to school! In the south, holidays meant a lot—Easter, Christmas—and you got new outfits. That's just the way it was, and although my family was poor, we didn't understand the essence of being poor. We always had new things to wear, and by me taking control of what I wanted to wear, I think, started my interest in design.

EA: When you came to Hollywood, and you left the manufacturing side of the business, was it a conscious decision to go into show business?

BW: No, I had worked in the industry for about five years. I've worked with 2 or 3 different firms, until I opened my own company called 'New Generation'. I was able to design a line of clothing for men and women, and after 1 or 2 years of doing that, I didn't own the company, legally own the company. I owned the company (as in front... I was Bill Whitten of 'New Generation', I got press, but I didn't reap the rewards of the money. I saw my employers buying Mercedes, and things like that. I wanted to benefit from the work that I was doing.

The other thing that bothered me was in designing for manufacturers and department stores you are locked into a certain creative mode. You can only spend so much for manufacturing, so much for fabrics, therefore you are limited in how creative you can be. So I decided to go to Hollywood, and open a company called 'Workroom 27'. We moved into one room. That's why we called it a workroom. It was 6 months before we sold the first garment, and at the end of that 6 months, things began to change. I was on the second floor, in the back of the building on Santa Monica Blvd.. There was no sign downstairs, so everything had to happen by word of mouth. The first time Neil Diamond came (to me) he was in a barber shop and remarked that he would like to find someone who could make clothing for him, shirts and stuff. The barber told him, 'there's a guy that makes pretty nice shirts. And he came in with a bag of fabric. I told him 'Look! I'll do your shirts, but next time don't bring your fabric'. He said ok, and it's been a 30 year relationship. I do his tours, his personal appearances, personal clothing, and the 11 member band. Everything that's on stage. After that I would look out of the window and Jim Brown, another client, would have all of Earth, Wind, and Fire in his car. Ten people in a car! Doc Severson brought in the group Chicago the same way. I looked out of the window and there was a car with 8 or 9 people.

EA: This was your introduction into the rock world.

BW: Yes. It was word of mouth. Berry Gordy came, Hugh Hefner, and I did all of the Playboy specials.

EA: How did you get into the glitter part of it? I remember the Jackson Five had the glitter image with the baseball caps and costumes.

BW: The glitter to me was a necessity in designing garments that had to be functional, and work in large places. We went through a period, fashion changes. There is a saying in Hollywood that Bob Mackie put glitter in, and Bill Whitten's going to take it out. My detail is now more earthy, more natural stones.

EA: If you are doing a client who has an image and some fashion sense, however, what he now wants for his new look is all wrong for him and his image. Is there a compromise on your part?

BW: Custom designing is probably the most difficult because if you are good at doing what you do you have to be able to tell the client what's right for them. It's easier if the client knows who he is, what he is about. You must be able to listen and you must be able to not concern yourself if he is going to like your ideas or not. Because you have to express what you think if you are going to have a lasting relationship and help them develop their style.

EA: Do you try to convince them that your style is more correct?

BW: Usually I just bluntly or jokingly say, 'yeah I see what you're talking about, now come back in a week or I'll see you in a couple of days, and I will sketch up what I think you should do.' Usually it works. I don't have any problems in that area.

EA: So you can place your ego behind you?

BW: You must place it behind you. If you're good at custom designing, you don't take your style and pass it on from entertainer to entertainer. You must have a separation of looks for each client. If you don't do that you won't last long with him. If you develop something for Neil Diamond, you

ERIK ASTON

BILL WHITTEN AN ERIK ASTON INTERVIEW

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICHARD BOMERSHEIN

don't give that look to someone else.

EA: Lionel Richie at one point was into the glittered tuxedos, as well as Michael Jackson was into the glitter for a moment. How do you separate that?

BW: They both shine, they both sparkle but it was done in a different way. Michael's was always done more pop, and Lionel always had a certain amount of class about his. The shapes of the silhouette was always different. They are friends.

EA: That's right, they are buddies.

BW: So they never gave me problems about working for one or the other. It was easy to see that they were being handled differently.

EA: You created Toni Braxton's short look. Very sexy, and very appealing, it's something that she can continue.

BW: She can. Toni came to me and expressed that she thought—and I agreed—that her belly button was beautiful. And she wanted to show it, that worked for her.

EA: I also know that you are working with Quincy Jones' new discovery, Tamia.

BW: I met Tamia when she first came to Hollywood. Her manager happens to be a dear friend, Brenda Richie, so I met Tamia before she recorded and we became friends first. Tamia saw me do work for other entertainers, so there was this mutual respect built and gained early. We can work together. We can sit down and actually plan out ideas on what she is going to wear.

EA: Elton John. Those fun, outrageous looks that he was doing on stage in the 80's—the Donald Duck, big glasses and feathers—all came from you.

BW: Elton and I had a wonderful relationship. First time I met Elton, the next week we were going out clubbing. There was never any problem with trust or communication. Elton from the first, said 'Just do it'. And I was able to develop outfits that he never saw until I shipped them, or until he wore them in concert. It was a wonderful relationship. It still is.

EA: At one point Elton did not have that outrageous look. I think in the late 70's and the early 80's he was sort of conservative.

BW: Elton was shy. When I first met him, he wore British suits, and he was playing at a little club called The Troubadour down the street from my shop. The first time I saw Elton John he was not headlining at the Hollywood Bowl, or anything like that. But amongst friends he was quite open, and quite witty, bright, and funny. And I saw that right away, so I wanted to explore the fact that the man was not completely shy. It worked. The first time he put on a costume—a gorilla suit made with ostrich feathers—he was able to laugh at himself and have fun on stage.

EA: Recently I saw a picture of Lola Falana in Ebony magazine from the late 70's in a gown that you designed. The gown look as if it could still be worn today.

BW: Lola is a friend of many years. We still stay in contact. I've done some nice pieces for her, and they were classic pieces. And, yeah, you can wear them for a long time.

EA: Can you say the same for men, in terms of suits? Is there a classic suit for a man that can last?

BW: Well I had a fashion show a couple of years back. A good friend, and a few other people came to the show in clothing that I had made for them 15 years prior. I got fun out of it. Pieces of clothing can be a lot like art. If they are interpreted in the right fabrics, and if it's made well, enjoy now people who collect Bill Whitten costumes. Neil has every costume that I ever made for him. He has them specially packed, sealed, and put in vaults. Lionel Richie has every costume made for him.

EA: You have been working with Siegfried & Roy in Las Vegas for years. Those costumes are just amazing. I understand that there is a wicked witch's costume that defies the imagination.

BW: Lynette, plays the evil witch in the show. She asked me to do a dress that every drag queen in America would be jealous of. And we pulled it off! She wears it in the finale. The amazing part about the dress is that it weights over 50 pounds. There is a steel corset built in the dress. I had to go to a welding shop in order to support the sleeves, which has an arm span of about 4 feet.

Siegfried & Roy allow me to create fantasy costumes. Without the client who has the budget and a place to wear the costume, I am very limited. The mediums that I like to work in, the craftsmanship, the type of beading and the quality of material are expensive. So when I have the opportunity to work with people like Siegfried & Roy it's wonderful.

EA: You must take a lot of pride in the fact, that you're the first designer to be inducted into the Rock 'n' Rock Hall of Fame.

BW: I don't know if I'm the first or not. I don't know that. I haven't investigated if I was first, but when the door was opened I was included.

EA: Now you're in there for Michael Jackson, Elton John, and a group called The Blueberries.

BW: The Raspberries.

EA: Raspberries. I was close.

BW: It's nice for me because it means it will be around after I am gone. It's nice to be in place like Planet Hollywood and Hard Rock Cafe.

EA: Your clothes are making the rounds.

BW: It's making people in the business understand what we do. The costumes I made for Elton John 15, 20 years ago that were $2500 to $5000 tops were auctioned at Soetheby's in New York for $25,000 to $50,000.

EA: Tell me about Janet Jackson's '1814'.

BW: Janet came to me when she was working on the album with ideas and concepts in mind. They had to be organized, they had to be designed, and I was fortunate enough to be hired to do the video.

EA: Bill, you are always busy, how do you relax?

BW: I like being busy. I collect black memorabilia, but I relax when I am developing a new show, developing a new product. But giving birth to something creative is what keeps me active.

MY BROTHERS
MY SISTERS
MY PEOPLE
HEALING IS A NATURAL THING
Ron Singleton Photography
Serving The African American Gay community with Pride
*COMING SOON TO THE WORLD WIDE WEB
Graphics by Odell - 213.651.1393

The Return of the B-Boy Blues Brothas

2ND TIME AROUND by
James Earl Hardy

Alyson Publishing
284 pages

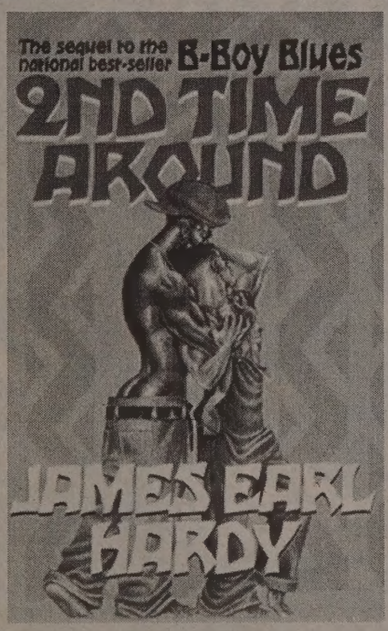
Reviewed by
Gregory Eugene Travis,
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Yes, it's true. It's never as jood as the first time, that is, unless you change positions the 2ND TIME AROUND

This is a lesson not lost on jood-meister, JAMES EARL HARDY, whose 1994 smash novel, B-BOY BLUES, the sexiest, freshest, phatest, funniest blunt to come along in ages, brought us the almost fairy tale romance between Mitchell "Little Bit" Crawford and Raheim "Pooquie" Rivers. Just to re-cap in case you didn't catch "B-Boy..." the first time around: Mitchell, is a middle class, professional, Africentric Brother who still believed in love despite numerous battle scars. Mitchell held out until he found...

Raheim. "...at least six feet tall, maybe 200 pounds... Hershey's kisses chocolate drop skin..." body chiseled by Waterford and a killer smile. They fell in love and the rest is Black-N-Nappy fictional history. When we last heard from Pooquie 'N' Little Bit they'd just gotten back together after some, er, difficulties (read the book, dammit!) and were looking toward new horizons in their relationships.

Knowing how things can change in a relationship between Bruthas in a New York "2nd..." the author argues once again for keepin it real by doing a tasty one-eighty and telling the tale and exploring several Black gay social and relationship orifices from Raheim's vantage point this time out. While certainly not borrowing from ELLISON's INVISIBLE MAN, WRIGHT's BLACK BOY or X's AUTOBIOGRAPHY, Hardy breaks tha shit down about being a Brutha who loves another Brutha in an Anglocentric and heterocentric society and the profoundly negative effect all this confusion can have on a strong young mind, let alone...



Early on, when Mitchell refuses to allow Raheim to move in with him in the theme and plot establishing scene, Little Bit tells Raheim that the fact that they love each other does not mean their unresolved issues (most particularly Raheim's unbridled violent outbursts) needn't be addressed in full before the discussion of co-living arrangements be discussed. Mitchell also intimates to his beloved that getting his act together begins with getting to know oneself.

And this is the crux of "2nd Time Around's" gospel as told by Sir Raheim himself. In his search for self, Raheim must start from the ground up in a way which Mitchell only knows intimately and/or intuitively because he's been so close to this man. Because he loves the hell out of him. And Mitchell/Little Bit proffers his own services in a limited way because the bulk if the journey is not his, but Raheim's.

So as Raheim lives some American dreams and charmed life fantasies like being discovered as THE model for a minor clothing line's major ad campaign, he's still dealing with the real life issues of being a Brutha who loves Brutha's and not having a don't work. Homosexual will get your nose broke in 43 places in Raheim's Harlem social circle. Bisexual don't do it either, despite the fact he has a five year old son (yeah, Lil Brotha Man/aka Junior is adorably on deck again). Raheim's conversations with Mitchell also eventually broach the current hotly-debated issue of whether the term "gay" really is valid and/or acceptable for homosexuals of color, especially African Americans. While the issue is not entirely resolved, the scene does speak to individual respect within a relationship and will undoubtedly provide some food for thought.

My guess is that some will likely view "2nd Time..." as an amusing and likely, failed romp back into the Black jungle because there are too few sex scenes and even fewer striking and overtly emancipatory moments where tha Brotha goes off on the Anglo establishment. Au contraire. Pooquie does have his moments, and several of them, but the white establishment is not his primary focus. In fact, Raheim's carnal sensibility is this: now that I'm in love I ain't lookin f'ass. And his take on working as a model: until I'm getting paid for doing what I love, you may pay me through the nose for doing what you want!

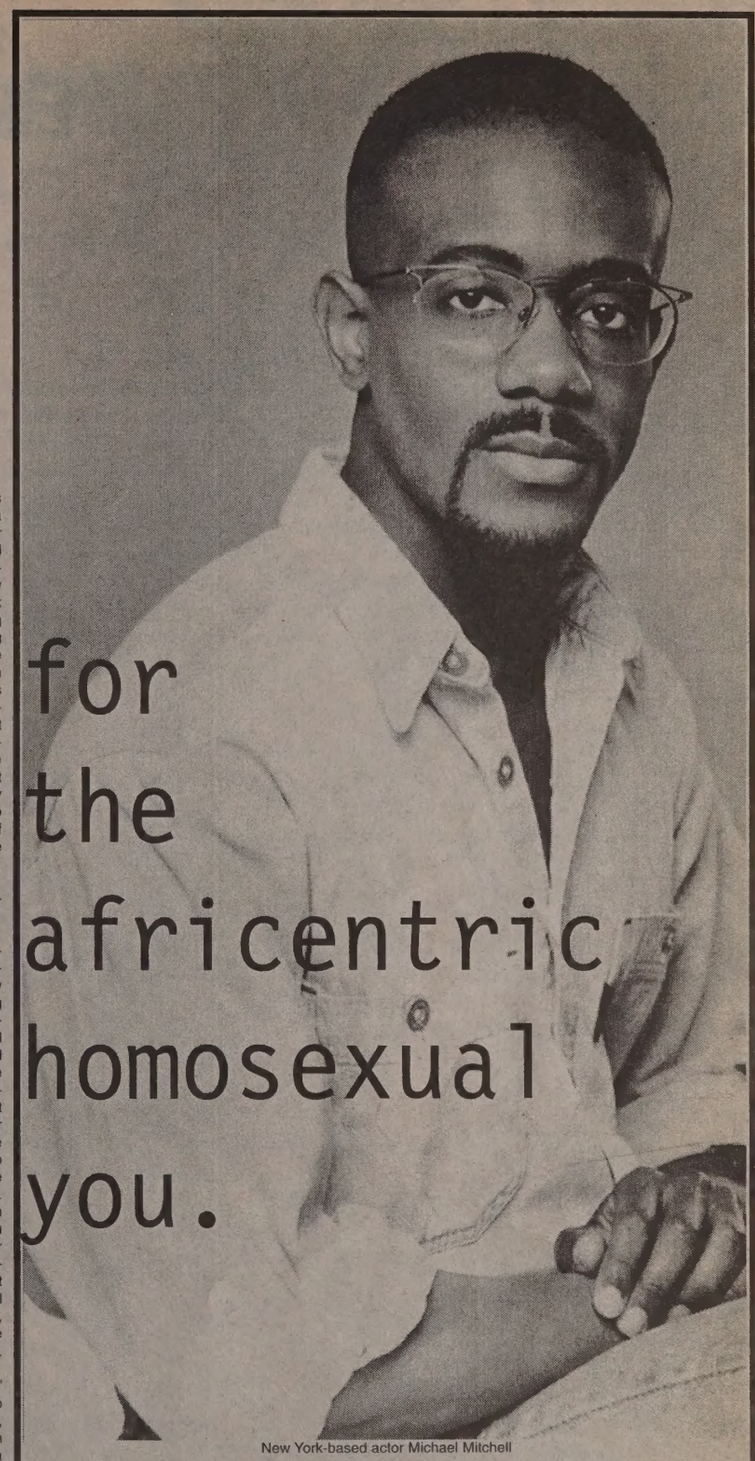
Too, some of the most delightful moments in "2nd Time..." come from Rahiem's always Africentrically based replies to a goo-goo/ga-ga eyed press after he becomes a print model. And even here Hardy seems to be asking "what if?" underscoring how unlikely the scenario of a dark skinned Black man representing AmeriKKKa in a major advertising campaign seems. Especially one proclaiming to embrace the Af-Am male in overtly sexual repose as the American ideal. (No, unfortunately TYSON don't count yet because only we, America's supposed kitchen help, know the Brutha by first name.) Talk about fantasia au gratin! But in this fairy tale scenario, Rahiem gets to drop the real dope on what America is about and ought to be about if the massasfinally gave up the reigns of power before they're forced to in the next millennium.

While "2nd Time..." is less rip-roaring and ribald than its progenitor, Hardy's humorous voice remains intact even as he pulls a TERRY MACMILLAN on us, writing in a totally different voice with striking authority as Ms. Thang did in DISAPPEARING ACTS. Yet, that voice remains just as edgy in his observations but somehow sweeter in tone coming from Raheim. The brother may be a hard-bodied hot-head, but his world weary street smarts are offset by a certain innocence. He realizes that the hair-trigger temper which almost once destroyed his relationship with Little Bit has to be brought under control. But when Da Man is on ya dick 24/7 what do you expect? Too, as their relationship has progressed, the out and out sexin has been replaced by romancing. In short, we get some of the same but not more of the same.

Most of the "B-Boy..." cast returns for this go round, including Gene, Mitchell's ace-boom buddy who puts in a cameo/star turn, offering Raheim some sage advice wrapped in a white flag. But this being Raheim's story, we're introduced to a different melange of characters from Raheim's world. Crystal, Junior's mother, returns as a voice of common sense, as does Raheim's homeboy, Angel, to help close an old wound. We also meet Raheim's no-nonsense mom who has a few surprises of her own for her son. And then there's a blast from the past—more of a cold draft actually—whose sudden reappearance threatens to put a deep freeze on all of Raheim's shit.

The book runs into the tiniest bit of trouble in terms of plot and pacing. While capturing the natural flow of conversation, repeated questions or phrases slow the story down at times. And this time around the action is a bit more visceral, whereas, with "B-Boy Blues," Mitchell was already very much centered (and at the risk of sounding snobbish, my guess is that most readers were likely to identify with him because those of us who are allowed to publish novels about Black folks, especially Brothers, are more likely to write about the Mitchell's of our community). In terms of plot, without having read the first book, the reader may feel a bit left out when certain names are dropped and past situations alluded to. Most of these loose ends are tied up by the end, though. And the ones that aren't don't dangle too distractingly.

All in all, "2nd Time Around" is a highly enjoyable and successful follow-up that'll cure your blues. Hey, it's a chocolate thang, so you know it's all jood.



New York-based actor Michael Mitchell

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SPIKE LEE'S 'BUS' IS BLACK

"I think as we move into the 21st century, the millennium, we are starting to lose the vestiges of slave mentality and discovering that we can rely on each other. Self-reliance is the key, and we have a lot of resources we can draw from," said Spike Lee, America's most thought-provoking filmmaker, whose newest film *Get On The Bus* follows the journey of 15 African-American men from Los Angeles departing as strangers and becoming Brothers by the time they reach Washington D.C. for The Million Man March. The film opens October 16th. On the one year anniversary of the historic event.

And this film is a special one in many ways. Fifteen African American men—actors Danny Glover, Wesley Snipes, Will Smith and Robert Guillaume, San Antonio Spurs basketball player Charles Smith, director Lee, casting director and producer Reuben Cannon, the film's screenwriter Reggie "Rock" Bythewood, attorney Johnnie Cochran, record mogul Jheryl Busby, businessman Olden Lee, stock broker Lem Daniels, record producer/attorney/manager Larkin Arnold and investment banker Calvin Grisgby all invested $100,000 to $200,000 each to finance the $2.5 million movie.

"It says to African-American men, we can come together, we can do this," said investor Johnnie Cochran, who believes supporting projects in which the African-American community has creative control helps to instill greater pride on a community wide level. "And it says to others in the community, we should be more united."

Although the budget of the film was small by Hollywood standards, the undertaking of this totally Black owned and operated project was monumental for everyone involved. The spirit of the Million Man March—atonement, community, self-reliance, inclusiveness—hovered protectively over the spartan production.

"I drove to The March from New York with a friend of mine," recalls the film's 31 year old Brooklyn-born screenwriter and co-investor Reggie "Rock" Bythewood who attended the March without realizing month's later he would be writing about it. "And the deepest thing is that by the time we got to Philadelphia there was like 90% Black men on the highway, and I had never seen anything like that in my entire life! The traffic was incredible but it was still moving. There were like busses and cars full of Brothers. My friend's driving and I'm like bopping my head to the music and I look up out of the window and over my shoulders and Brothers in the next cars are bopping their heads to music. We were everywhere, all over that highway, and I'm saying to myself, 'Man, I'm into something deep here.' "

Bythewood, who is a supervising producer/writer on the Fox TV drama series *New York Undercover*, also took his responsibility as a writer seriously as he created 15 diverse Black men on the bus, including a homosexual couple.

"I learned a lot writing this film, first of all, artistically as a writer. One of the mistakes that white writers make when they're writing somebody Black is that they try to write it as a Black person and it doesn't work because they're just dealing with stereotypes. But then when they say, okay, let me write it as a human being and let me write it as myself, they say wow. And it was real interesting for me writing the gay couple. There were people I was able to call and talk to, and I was going through all the files on the internet, just trying to be responsible about things, but what turned out to be so interesting for me was that all I had to do was write it as any couple dealing with problems in their relationship and that's what it was. As many times as we say there are all these differences, there really aren't. I mean, when I started writing their arguments I realized that these were the same arguments I just had, you know?

"Here's the thing that I think is interesting and this is where we try to approach it in the film. The fact of the matter is if a Brother is walking down the street and some white lady is gonna clutch her purse, she's not going to clutch her purse because she's thinking heterosexual or homosexual. She's clutching her purse because the Brother is Black. There are very specific things we need to deal with in our community as Black men. I think that all the issues and problems that need to be solved are not addressed in the movie. I think what we were able to do is raise many issues and come to some understanding of them. What the movie is saying is that there is a lot more to be done and it's on us to do it. We can't turn to anybody else.

"I certainly hope that by the end of the movie that people will realize that it doesn't matter whether someone is light skin, dark skin, gay, Republican, Democrat—sure, we can argue about those issue but ultimately we got to clean house in a whole bunch of other things first. And there's like this thing that everybody was saying on the set, and that is: if there's no problem within, the problems outside can do us no harm.

"I just hope that all of us can come away with reasons to say yes to each other rather than coming away with reasons to say no to each other. I hope that we can learn to accept everything about each other because for far too long we have found reasons to say no to each other."

> ***"It says to African-American men, we can come together, we can do this...And it says to others in the community, we should be more united"***
> ***-----investor Johnny Cochran***

"These men cover a broad spectrum," Lee explains, "They debate each other, they support one another, they fight, they joke. In the end, they are unified."

Hill Harper, who studied law at Harvard before successfully pursuing an acting career—he starred in the Showtime movie *Zooman* opposite Lou Gossett and Charles Dutton, as well as several TV dramas and the off-Broadway productions of *Your Handsome Captain*, *Freeman* and *American Buffalo*, plays Xavier, the youngest of the bus riders, sees his involvement in this film as more than just another acting assignment.

"I hope *Get On The Bus* will encourage people to get involved, whatever that means to you. Just don't sit on the side lines and talk 'they doin' this to us, they don't that to us.' If people can walk away from the film thinking that whether or not we're responsible for the conditions we live in, the bottom line is that our freedom is going to rely on us. We have to handle our own problems in our community and start dealing with them.

"The overall message of The Million Man March, whether you are a good person who does right by everyone you meet, that's all well and good, but part of the message of the March is, okay, we have a million Black men here, you're going to go back to your community and it's time to do something. Get out of your house, do more. It's time for all of us to quit standing on the sidelines and get on the bus, so to speak. To me that's really what it's about.

"American society wants to paint all Black men very monolithic, and this is a group of men that you would think would be the most monolithic of all, a group of African American men from Los Angeles getting on the bus together going to the Million Man March. That must be a very like-minded group, but what this movie shows is that we're not monolithic at all, we all have our individual journeys and reasons for going on the trip, and I think through our individual journeys along the way we get to learn something about our journeys and each other.

"And actually what happened when we were shooting the film, it began to mirror the film itself. Spike did a very interesting thing. He decided to shoot the film in sequence which is very rarely done for logistical reasons. And what happens is that you have these 12 distinct men getting on this bus, going on this trip for different reasons, all of whom don't really know each other. Now that was also true of the actors. We may have known each other in passing—I worked with Charles Dutton—but for the most part 12 individual actors were coming together for the first time, so we had this rehearsal week and then we began the journey. The bus moved across country in sequence. We shot here, we shot in the desert, then we went to Tennessee, then we ended up in Virginia

OWNED AND OPERATED

by Stanley Bennett Clay

and Maryland and then ultimately D.C. So what was wild was that in the script the men's journeys and attitudes; the way they interacted as they get to know each other better and better, the interaction changed. We were learning things from each other. There may be conflicts and good times and learning and sharing and heartfelt times; all these things happened. And that's what happened to the actors as well. We slowly but surely got to know each other better and better and conflicts would happened and good times would happen and heartfelt moments would happen in the same way.

"There were a lot of firsts on this film. Unlike most films where a scene that you're not in is being shot, you don't have to be there, whereas in *Get On The Bus* everybody had to be there everyday even if you did not have anything scripted that particular day for your character, because they were shooting scenes with that character that sat in front of you or all the way in the front of the bus. But since the camera was looking down the bus all the time, everybody had to be there everyday for everybody's scene, so the level of interaction was very high among the cast. The shooting of the film was a microcosm of the film itself, individuals getting to know each other."

"And there was a brotherhood establish because we were so close all the time. Spike created that atmosphere from the get-go. He created an improvisational base where people were free to express their views, to speak out and to talk and also he would have guest speakers like Jesse Jackson, Ben Chavis, a representative from the Nation of Islam come in to speak to us during that first week of rehearsal. A Brother who was the L.A. representative of the March also spoke to us, so the tone was definitely set by Spike to create a platform for us as actors to speak and really investigate our characters.

"For me there was another thing. My character in the film is one of the youngest on the bus, and the oldest character on the bus is played by Ossie Davis, and our relationship in the film is that he passes down knowledge to me, and what happened in rea life mirrored that. Part of the greatest joy for me in doing this film was being able to sit down every nigh and have dinner with Ossie Davis and listen to his stories. He started in films way back when they were silent films. He has stories about himself, his wife Ruby Dee, working with Godfrey Cambridge, it was really a wonderful experience for me as an actor."

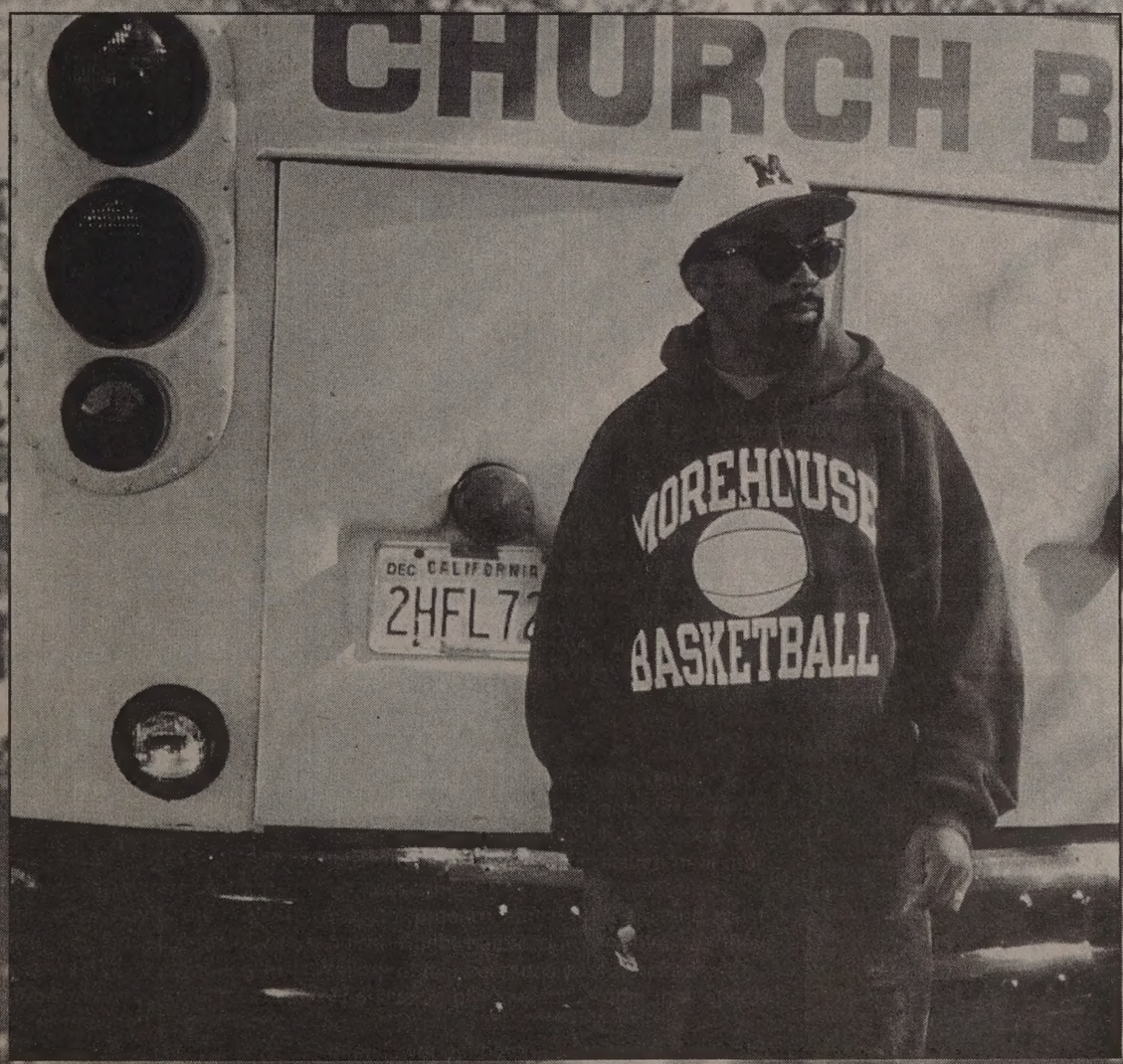
Within the creative hands of actors Harry J. Lennix and Isaiah Washington was the responsibility of creating the homosexual couple. Their relationship, in the context of the bus, was a nuance not to be missed i the goal of representatio was to be honestly achieved.

"The idea was to put many different types of Black men as possible on the bus tha are in the community," screenwriter Bythewood recalls vividly. "The Brothe that's bi-racial, the Brothe that's a Muslim, the Brothe that's a cop, the estranged father and son, the gay couple, the old man who missed The March during the 60's.

"I'm pretty sure that Spike suggested it. Not necessarily a couple, but he said tha one of the men needed to be gay and then as I was writing the script the gay brother became a couple."

"I think one of the bigges misunderstandings is tha Black people are monolithic," says Lee. "We wanted to show diversity in class, status and ideals on the screen." Furthermore, the gay issue, Lee says, "was one of the big issues of The March. Where do gay people fit into the community?"

For Harry J. Lennix, a distinguished stage and screen actor who divides his time between work at the Goodman Theater in his native Chicago and screen assignments in Hollywood—the family-man-in financial turmoil member of *The Five Heartbeats* and a Secre



"I think one of the biggest misunderstandings is that Black people are monolithic. We wanted to show diversity in class, status and ideals on the screen. Furthermore, the gay issue was one of the big issues of The March. Where do gay people fit into the community?"

-------Spike Lee

Service man assigned to the First Lady in *Guarding Tees* are but two of his many film roles—playing a gay character presented an opportunity to portray a group that goes largely unnoticed, and while it may be viewed by some as somewhat controversial, Lennix saw it as a sound creative choice. "I believe the gay community, and specifically the Black gay community, is worthy of representation and respect. They're a part of us. They're our Brothers, so I am pleased to be playing this part.

Casting director Rueben Cannon contacted Harry's agent for the audition. "They were looking for a particular kind of characterization. They didn't want to do the traditional way homosexuals are played. They wanted to do something different. Not that the guys were overly butch, but they were not about the stereotypical crap that usually characterizes Black gay men in the media and film."

"I had played a gay character before. I did the non-musical version of 'Kiss of the Spider Women' right before it went to Broadway. I had to kiss the guy on stage every night for two months. He was gay and we would always kid that that would be the thing to turn me over, so it wasn't difficult at all. It was just a matter of playing a human being who happened to have as one of his character traits the fact that he's gay. He's also a piano player. He's also somebody's son. He's also somebody's brother."

Isaiah Washington, best known for his 3 previous appearances in Spike Lee films (*Crooklyn*, *Clockers* and *Girl 6*) and who will be seen in 4 episodes of *Living Single* as Queen Latifah's love interest, play's Harry Lennix's lover.

"My thing was to just try to bring some life blood to this character like I've never seen handled in the African American community," recalls Washington, "to make him a man. And I think we've succeeded. A lot of people have given us a lot of positive feedback.

"I mean, let's be for real. I've been in the military, I've been in the theatre business for a long time, and there are some Brothers who are gorgeous—6'5", 295 lbs.—that'll be blinking their eyes at you, and I'd always be going 'uh-huh'. It was like an ongoing joke when I was at Howard 'cause a lot of the crew I'd be hangin' with would be flamin', and they would always tell me these stories about half the football team and I'm going 'huh?, The Halfback?' And they would have me rollin'. So it's about the reality. We're going into the year 2000, so let's be for real, you know? And Spike has always been about being for real."

"We are realizing that we must finally come together. We can't carry this crap into the 21st Century. I think inside everybody's gut we know the truth that we have to clean house and start over.

"This whole movie is about tolerance. These Brothers are trying to understand tolerance on the bus, different intellects, different environments, different sexual backgrounds, they're all forced to atone and be responsible and come together. That's the great metaphor."

"This whole movie is about tolerance. These Brothers are trying to understand tolerance on the bus, different intellects, different environments, different sexual backgrounds, they're all forced to atone and be responsible and come together. That's the great metaphor."

------actor Isaiah Washington

"There were times, because the production was so Spartan," Lennix recalls, "that there were some tension. We were working long hours right in each other's faces, but we overcame all of that stuff and all of those moments of strife because of the meaning of the film, because we wanted to be a part of history, just like The March was a part of history. Things that happened beyond the set were more important to me. The fact that 15 Black men put their money together to get this film made was more important to me. The fact that Spike got it done in 3 weeks, which is unheard of, and for virtually no money, that's more important to me. A can-do spirit is what I came away from the film with, and it's that spirit that I value most."

Actor Charles Dutton believes the low budget aspect of the film helped create the gritty reality of the bus trip on screen.

"Everybody pulled their own load equally. There were no Cadillacs on this one—everybody was a Honda. The modesty, the simplicity of our living conditions was a perfect substitute for the wonderful misery that must've been the case for those men who traveled three thousand miles to be in solidarity with one another."

Part of their solidarity could also be seen through the speaking engagements Spike Lee, Charles Dutton and other cast members did while on the road. During the week of night shoots, instead of sleeping during the day, Lee and the others traveled to Fisk and Vanderbilt Universities in Nashville, and Howard University in Washington, D.C. to speak to students.

"I think it's terrific and well worth mentioning," says producer Barry Rosenbush, who underscores their participation despite a tough shooting schedule. "They cared enough to give their free time to those young people."

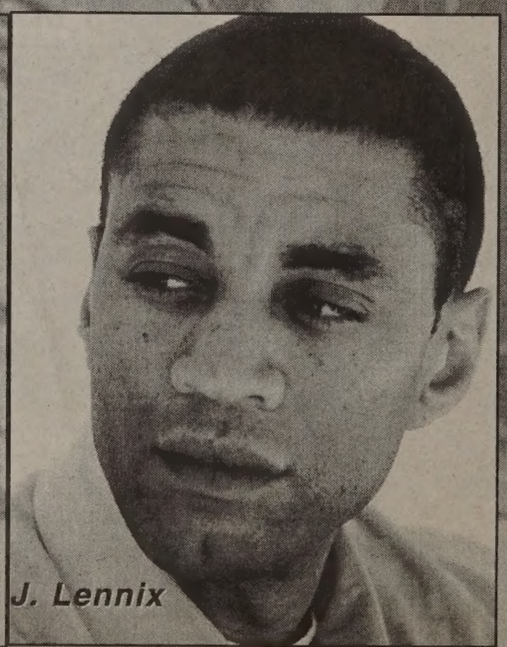
"Spike is the man," actor Harry Lennix declares. "He's the man that started this Black Renaissance, and as such, I think he is owed and receives a lot of deference. He's the leader. Whenever he says 'this is gonna get done', there is no doubt in our mind, certainly not in mine, that it's gonna get done. I think he's a terrific producer, director, artist who doesn't take 'no' for an answer."

"And he sits down with you and he allows you to speak your mind, in terms of what's comfortable for you," says Illinois based comedian Bernie Mac, who, along with the other actors, was impressed with Lee's down to earth style of directing. "Spike is right there with you," Mac says. "If you're in the cold, he's in the cold. If your hotel room is rundown, his is rundown. And I think that says a lot about his character. That's what brings people together."

Hill Harper also sees *Get On The Bus* as another

"There were times, because the production was so spartan, that there was some tension. We were working long hours right in each other's faces, but we overcame all of that stuff and all of those moments of strife because of the meaning of the film, because we wanted to be a part of history, just like The March ."

----actor Harry J. Lennix



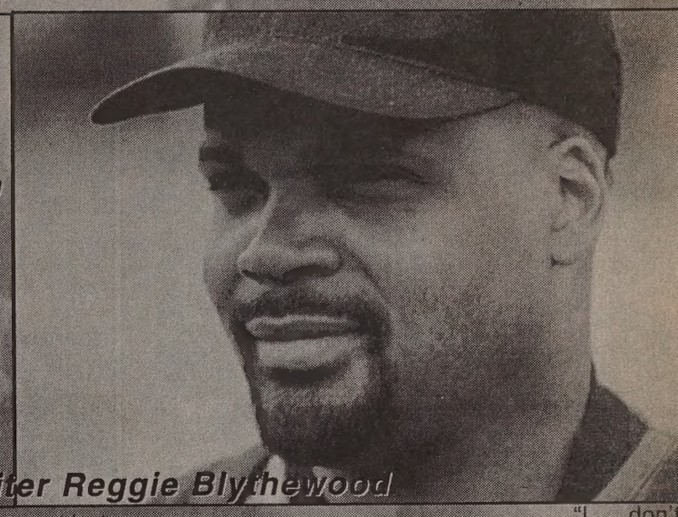
opportunity to dispel the negative imagery of young Black men—and to recall the great loss of Tupac Shakur.

"A part of me believes that we see so many negative images in and around the African American community that's pr obligated by the media," he deliberates with cautious articulation, "and it's not like they make things up, but what happens is that it's all so one-sided, we don't see the positive side as well, there are a lot of negative images out there. [Tupac's death] is yet another thing where people will say 'Yeah, well, he asked for it. He lived hard and now he was made to pay, he shouldn'tve been out there like that, he shouldn'tve been this and that,' but to me, that is a huge jump, and to me, a really perverse jump because the sinful thing is that Tupac was in a situation where he felt that he had to put out what he put out, whether right or wrong.

"The situation is that we as African American young men, for whatever reason, feel that to be somebody, to be worthwhile, we have to adorn ourselves with gold, adorn ourselves with tattoos, adorn ourselves with labels that say Gucci or Adidas or whatever to increase our values, because there's something that tells us that we are undervalued, so we have to throw this stuff off, and then we also got to throw on an attitude, a scowl, a tough-tough-stick-your-chest-out attitude, so everybody ignores the things that lead someone to do something like this and just focus on the results 'Well he lived like that and he died like that.' But the point is that there are images and messages that came to him. Tupac was a very intelligent person. He went to the Baltimore School of the Arts. It's not like he was a dummy. He was an artist, but at the same time he felt that he had to be out there and profile. And what is that about? Art isn't usually about that.

"I certainly hope that by the end of the movie that people will realize that it doesn't matter whether someone is ligh skin, dark skin, gay, Republican, Democrat--- if there's no problem within, the problems outside can do us no harm."-

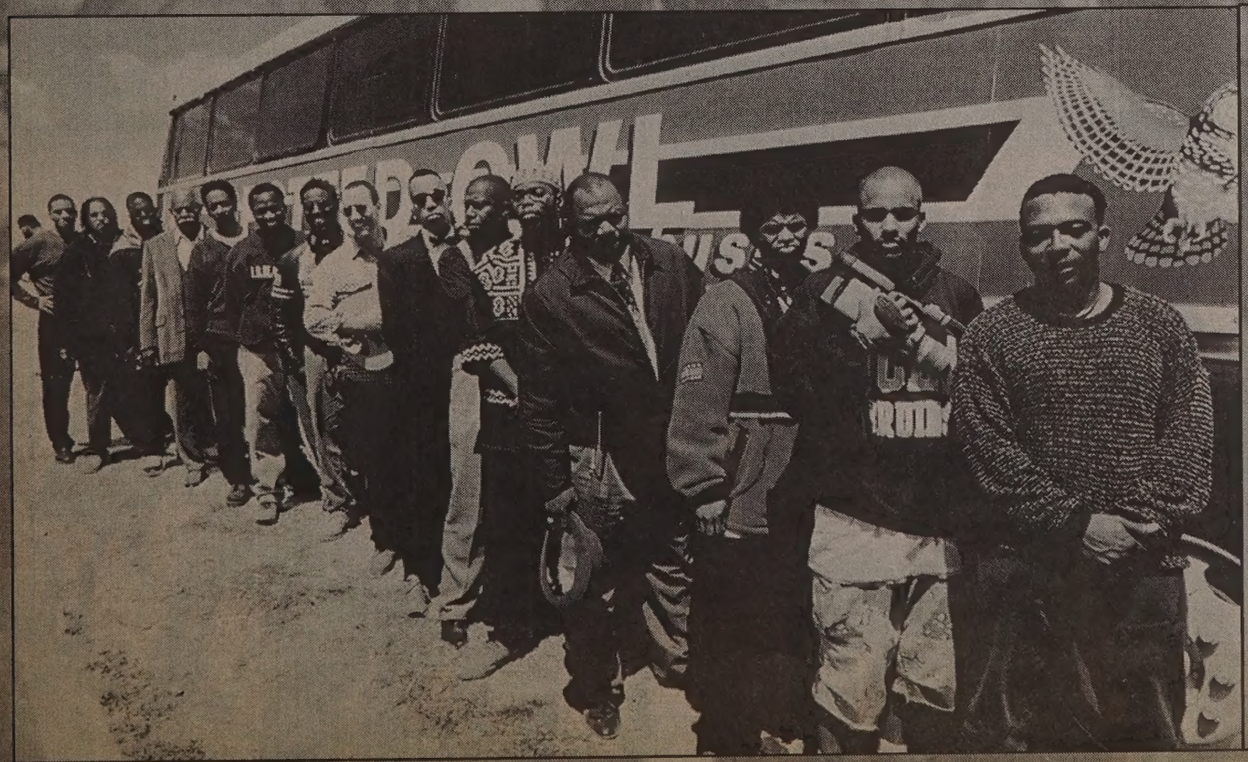
-----investor, screenwriter Reggie Blythewood



"There are so many things that are going on in the community around the self-worth issue, and that's really what The Million Man March was about, it's like, okay, we all are valuable. A million of us are strong, a million of us need to act in all communities and make a difference, make things better, but it's hard. So, I don't know. People thought that Magic Johnson saying that he was HIV positive was going to make a difference. Did it? I don't think so. People thought that Easy-E dying would make a difference in the rap community or among young people in the urban communities. Did it? I don't think so.

"I don't know if Tupac's death is going to make a difference or not. I hope it does. His death effects me. And what's difficult about it is that it was somebody who, for whatever reason, had voice. I call it opportunity loss. Whether tomorrow, if Tupac was alive, he was going to actually speak to a group of school kids and maybe lead a couple of them to do the right thing or not, the thing is that maybe he would have next year.

"What I'm trying to say is that anytime we're alive and breathing we have an opportunity to make a difference. And that's what The Million Man March is all about. Black men out here *can* make a difference. We don't have to just accept things. That's why I appreciate someone like Spike Lee. People jump on his back and I do not get it! He is someone who is trying to do something. Whether you agree with him



"Everybody pulled their own load equally. There were no Cadillacs on this one---everybody was a HondA. The modesty, the simplicity of our living conditions was a perfect substitute for the wonderful misery that must've been the case for those men who traveled three thousand miles to be in solidarity with one another."

---actor Charles Dutton

"My character's journey was about this film camera. I'm playing a film student at UCLA—-Xavier Moore—-who's going on this trip to document this march because I think it's going to be one of the greatest things for Black people. My whole identity is through the viewfinder of my video camera, and my character's journey is to learn the purpose of someone who is a recorder of society, but I learn that there can be times when I must put down the camera and make a difference about what I'm shooting instead of just being an idle bystander recording.

"The image that is put out there about young African American males is that we are all gangbangers, or whether you don't agree with him, it makes no difference. He does not get the credit that he deserves. He is one of the greatest, most prolific and socially conscious filmmakers in America, and his films do not lose money. They may not make a $100 million, but they don't lose money. If you added up the gross receipts of his films verses Woody Allen's films, Spikes films make more money, but you never hear anybody criticizing Woody Allen for making films that aren't commercial enough.

"Spike Lee is a very serious person. He is not a B.S.er, he's not grandstanding, he's not out there for you to like him, he's out there trying to do his art and trying to deliver a message, and as an artist working with someone like that you connect with that and he allows you to do your work, you can build your character with a vision, and you can try to do your thing and try to work on your journey.

"Anytime we're alive and breathing we have an opportunity to make a difference."----actor Hill Harper

it's just pure comedy or buffoonery, but this film is an opportunity to see young, old, middle aged Black men on screen in a variety of different ways and in a positive light, people who are thinking and intelligent. "Come on out and support your mouth with your money. I believe if the film is successful we'll be able to see more films about African Americans that have some kind of issue-based content. If the film is not successful, it'll just be written off as 'Okay, that's not what Black people want to see, we just want to see *The Nutty Professor,* we just want to see gangbanging movies. Now people said that that would change when *Waiting To Exhale* came out and did so well [editor's note: *Waiting To Exhale* cost $12 million and grossed $64 million in the United States alone], but that remains to be seen. Obviously there hasn't been enough time in between now and then for a lot of new movies to be made and released to gage it. And *Get On The Bus* is not a book-based film, it's an event-based film, so the question is: are people so cynical that we just want to see shoot 'em up and laugh type of films, or can we really make films that are about something that people will support?"

The question that actor Hill Harper poses is a question that filmmaker Spike Lee, on the occasion of his 10th and, potentially, most important film, has posed over and over again. Spike has constantly put out the wake up call, challenging us to remove the sleep from our eyes and take charge of ourselves.

We are the people. The ball is now in the court of every African American. On the one year anniversary of the greatest demonstration this country and the world has ever seen—October 16, 1996—Spike Lee's film *Get On The Bus* opens. Your presence that day will give the mighty power of the African American red, yellow and *green* the chance to be the shot heard 'round the world...if we all link arms—dark, light, male, female, rich, poor, homosexual, heterosexual—and ride the bus in unity.

Don't be left at the curb.

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the bandstand, lake merritt, downtown oakland, saturday, october 12, 1pm - 6pm, $5 at the park

dance party
the california ballroom with dj's anita lofton & chris johnson, 1736 franklin street, oakland, saturday, october 12, 9pm - 2am, $10 advance / $12 at the door

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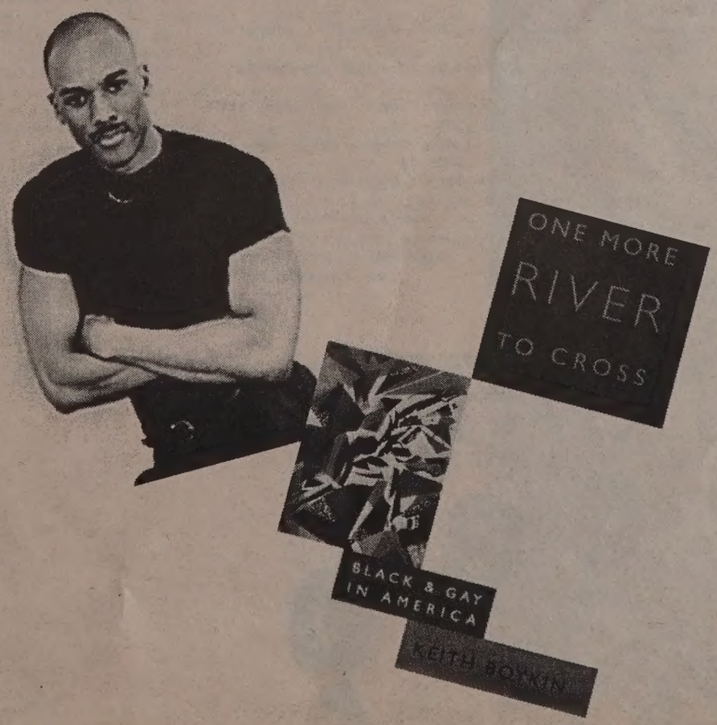

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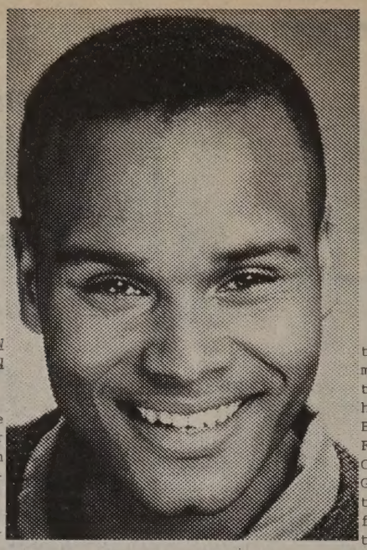
by Gregory Eugene Travis, Arts & Entertainment Editor



NEW EDITION TRADITION

Two years in the making and after numerous delays and much speculation, the mothership has landed. Ronnie, Bobby, Ricky, Michael, Ralph and Johnny finally bring NEW EDITION "HOME AGAIN" (MCA). Frankly, it's almost as if they've never left, not only because the blend is still smooth and tight, but because (like the TEMPS and the TOPS in the 60's and 70's) you hear shades of New Edition in just about every R&B, New Jack and hip hop singer or group on the scene today. And while that may be flattering, it makes "Home Again" almost like one of the pack. The comparisons to JODECI, BOYZ II MEN (who you'll remember were discovered and nurtured by BELL BIV DEVOE/New Edition alumnus, MICHAEL BIVENS) and even 3T, etc. are certain. But the other groups don't have BOBBY BROWN'S nekkid and wicked tenor, JOHNNY GILL's burn the roof off the mutha growl and soaring falsetto and RALPH TRESVANT's sweet/sexy sensitivity or B.B.D.'s sharp, edgy wit.

Yeah, the fellas are back and it is worth the wait but the question remains, will their baby Bruthas give up their old room without a fight?

FRACTURED BONE

I guess you can't talk about reunions without swinging over to the back page and talking about rumors of discord. And everybody's been wagging their tongues in hot anticipation about the eminent demise of BONE THUGS-N-HARMONY, especially given that they are at the height of their popularity.

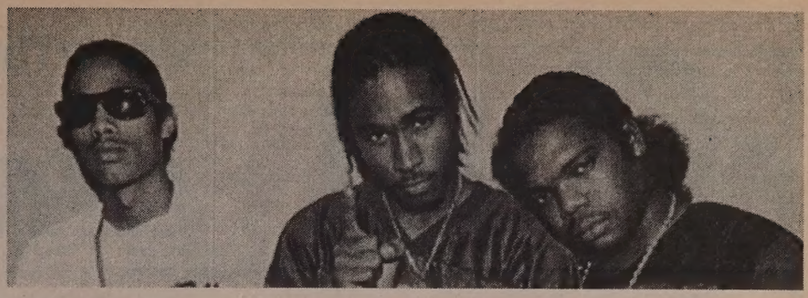
Now...the press release says that the very handsome FLESH-N-BONE is releasing a solo project with DEF JAM MUSIC GROUP. Some of his fellow Boners will be contributing to the project. So I called Flesh's press people just to ask a few teensy-weensy questions and the very polite young lady I spoke to told me that they have no info on Bone Thugs, only on Flesh's upcoming CD, "TRUES HUMBLY UNITED GATHERIN SOULS." Funny, they spoke fluent Bone Thugs on the PR they sent to me. But don't say I told ya 'cause I ain't one ta gossip.

MACK DIVA SAVES THE WORLD

Speaking of Bonin', there's a time and place for everything according to sultry, Black consciousness oriented songstress, SANDRA ST. VICTOR, formerly of the now defunct FAMILY STAND. "Spirituality and sexuality are very much entwined," she's been quoted as saying. "Just ask Marvin Gaye. Done the right way, a good lay is a lot like touching God. I think we're losing touch with that sort of sincere sensuality. We're losing touch with what made soul music soul music."

Her first solo CD's title says it all: "MACK DIVA SAVES THE WORLD." Tickling all sorts of fancies and funny bones in the Alternative R&B spectrum here, the Alt. funk-ometer there, St. Victor evokes --her buddy and she-ro so instrumental in St. Victor's discovery as a singer for Roy Ayers' band-- CHAKA, a taste of NONA HYNDRIX, Ms. NDEGEOCELLO, even a bit-o-PATTI; you know, all those not only R&B sangin, fonque totin, rock shootin divas who stretch all the musical boundaries. They spill the wine all over the cup because a cupful ain't enough to keep 'em satisfied.

On Miss Sandra's CD, she not only chants about Black pride in the album's first release, "Rise," but supports the Million Man March on an ANGELA WIMBUSH tip, vibin "Chocolate;" noting that "...when a man has a dream and calls/My brothers come together proudly/And stand a Million strong." Later, though, she chronicles the travails of an unwed (though presumably non-working) mom who understands her situa-



Bone Thugs-N-Harmony

tion, including how she's trapped by her love for her man in the very adult, "Knocked Up & Locked Down." But then St. Vincent turns right around and serves us Divas stretched out over a fonnnnn-kay groove lookin fo' a Brutha who got "MPH" (as in "oomph!") enough to satisfy her desire. Expect to hear re-mixes everywhere.

TINA LIMITED

Let's go globe hoppin. While Miss Sandra St. Victor lays plans to save the world, we really must check in with THE International symbol of Grand Divas With Legs--the one and only TINA TURNER fulfilling her "WILDEST DREAMS" (Virgin) with... BARRY WHITE! Yes, they duet. Uh, in a way. Okay, so it's mostly milque toast pillow talk made somewhat sexy by our stars. But...do they make us want to take in a video (or, more to the point) fantasy in which we'd like to see them prelude a get-busy? Not this arrangement of this song.

More successful is the R&B revisionist version of "Something Beautiful Remains" in which the original Lady T does her very best thang --schooling us all on relationships from a world weary perspective. Although Ms. Turner acquits herself well overall, Black listeners may be left wondering, given her mega success with the "PRIVATE DANCER" album among African American audiences, why Miss Rock Diva doesn't just do a straight ahead R&B album. Hmmmm? Well maybe next time. That is, if we're still listening.

NEW SMOOTH GROOVE

It looks like that old school vibe is here to stay for a while and Eric Benét is its newest deacon. On "TRUE TO MYSELF" (Warner) his sophomore recording (but first solo) the singer/songwriter joins the ranks of D'ANGELO and TONY RICH with his lush, churchy harmonies floating over pulsing rhythms. While at times Benet's vocals recall the easy gymnastics of STEVIE WONDER, his sound owes as much to the bright, jittery funk of SLY STONE and PRINCE. Even the ballads sound like they would have been just as at home on an AL GREEN disk circa '72. With the torchy "Let's Stay Together" already featured on the soundtrack of MARTIN Lawrence's hit comedy, A THIN LINE BETWEEN LOVE AND HATE, expect to hear much more of Eric Benét.

Miss Tina

THA TRUTH 'BOUT GIRL GROUPS

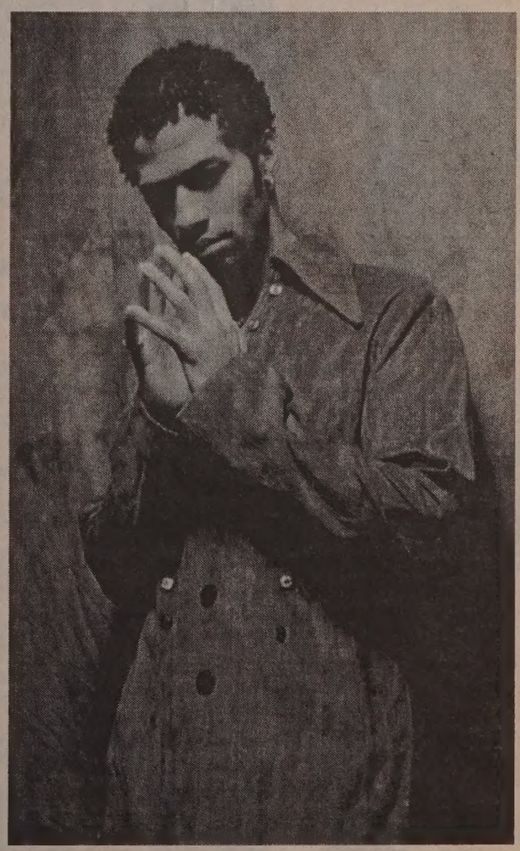
Not that the world really needs another girl group, but if you like the sound of ZHANEE, but want a harder groove, then THA TRUTH is for you. On their self-titled debut, the Houston trio serves up hypnotic almost narcotizing harmonies and stripped down mostly medium tempo funk with a healthy dollop of hip hop. Mentored by FAITH EVANS (for whom they sang back-up on her tour), the red hot first single, "Red Lights," is just a prelude of what's to come. Another standout is the summery "How We Roll" as well as the sweetly yearning "I Wanna Know" (featuring Erick Sermon).

UNITED PROGRAMMING FOR NEGROES

No, don't adjust your dial. That's right, all those people on all those sitcoms are actually supposed to have brown skin. And no, they're not routing all television programming through Washington, DC. It turns out that the networks are all offering new series (or scoring them from each other) featuring African American casts or leads. Newcomer UPN in particular says it is going after the undeserved African American audience, featuring seven Black shows including a revamped IN THE HOUSE which it acquired from NBC.

Also expect to see a lot of familiar faces in new series like MALCOLM-JAMAL WARNER, ROBIN GIVENS, SHERMAN HEMSLEY, comedian FLEX and JAMES AVERY. One you won't see too soon is DEBBIE ALLEN. The buzz is that Miss Thang decided to seek lodgings elsewhere upon learning that LL COOL J had become the unofficial star of the show (i.e. the audience liked him better). So the house has been redecorated, adding new cast member ALFONSO RIBIERO putting KIM WAYANS on the payroll full time. The early word is that Ms. Wayans is even more hilarious than last year.

While it warms the heart to know that the networks care so much about us, let's not forget these are all comedies (presumably because we's likesta laugh so much 'cause we's jes' happy, happy, happy!), that they will snatch the shit off the air in a heartbeat if it ain't pullin down bank from the jump... and that, outside of COSBY and a few others, we own none of it. And didn't FOX's shit go through the roof with IN LIVING COLOR, ARSENIO, MARTIN, LIVING SINGLE and NEW YORK UNDERCOVER? All I ' m



Eric Benét

saying is that while it's good to be sitting in the balcony watching our own, we mustn't forget that it used to be called "nigger heaven."

A HOLOCAUST IN LIVING COLOR

Be on the look out for JOHN SINGLETON's harrowing new film, ROSEWOOD. The maker of BOYZ IN THE HOOD and HIGHER LEARNING directs this true story of the Ku Klux Klan led massacre and burning of a small, extremely prosperous and predominately Black town in 1920's Florida. The hatred and shame of the act was so intense that to this day there are only the thinnest of references on official records about what happened at Rosewood. From the little taste I got of the film, it looks like Mr. Singleton is back in form.

THANKS, DENZEL, FOR THE IMAGERY

Of course one of the most eagerly anticipated films of the year will be the late fall release, THE PREACHER'S WIFE, starring DENZEL and WHITNEY. And, while it's great that EDDIE MURPHY is back into the stratosphere with THE NUTTY PROFESSOR and that he makes 20 million per picture now; the fact that Mr. Washington his moved up from 10 mil per to 12 mil for his next film, FALLEN, is more gratifying. I can go to a Denzel Washington film and feel safe that Black people will not be denigrated by it's star. And when you are constantly under assault and suspicion, having this kind of refuge is a godsend. I say, give the Brother the 50 million he's worth!

AND YOU TOO, WHITNEY

Now, mind you, this next note is only hearsay, but they said Miss Diva just got ta hollarin and couldn't stop herself. We (a friend in the know and I) was talking about how Miss Whitney must have had a big old blunt just before she tore into "Why Does It Hurt So Bad?" because she's sangin so Black you know her hair "went back." Anyway, he said that while they were shooting one scene from "Preacher", where Whit-Whit was up in the choir sangin, diva musta got happy because the cameras stopped rolling but she didn't. To hear him tell it, she got almost evangelistic. Well, I like to her Miss Shoop hollah, anyway. The soundtrack is rumored to be mostly gospel. And we know that that might make it one of (if not the) biggest gospel album ever. We'll see, come Christmas, won't we?

STOMPIN' AT THE WADSWORTH

Fresh on the heels of SAVION GLOVER's TONY AWARD winning BRING ON DA FUNK BRING ON DA NOISE, comes JAM ON THE GROOVE from GHETTORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS. This "pyrotechnic display of physical graffiti" uses dance, music and art to chronicle the progression of the hip hop movement. It runs September 24 to October 5 at the Veterans Wadsworth Theater for 14 performances only at UCLA. For more info: (310) 825-2101.

To be honest, I'm going to see all that chiseled chocolate up on stage, whirling, twirling and writhing to the groove. I'm chocolate deficient, you know. It's a very rare disorder. And I have this prescription to fill...

WRITERS WITH HIV/AIDS SOUGHT

Before we move on to THE event of the season, I just wanted to put the info out about the PEN CENTER USA WEST grants for writers with HIV/AIDS. If you write Fiction, Poetry, Creative Nonfiction (including memoirs and essays), and Stage plays, then you are eligible to submit your work for consideration for one of five $1000 grants provided that you are HIV positive or are living with AIDS and reside in the western or mid-western United States and have been actively involved in creating literary work for the past three years. Past recipients of the three year old grant are not eligible. Application deadline is (postmarked) October 7th, 1996. For more information and an application, contact Sophia Corleone at (213) 365-8500.

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Gay & Lesbian Center

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A Celebration for our entire community

We're taking over the street and turning it into the biggest, most exciting gay and lesbian block party in history!

Community Organization Booths	Certified Hollywood Farmers Market	Child Care and Activities	Workshops Crafts Fair Psychic Fair	Food Court & Beer Garden	Open House & Center Tours

Saturday, October 5th
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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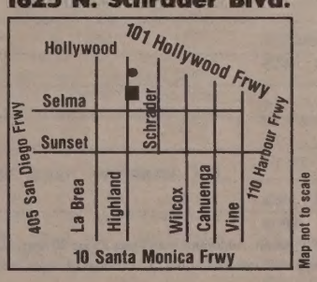


All-Day Dancing and Live Remote by GROOVE RADIO 103.1

FREE admission to After "Block Party" Celebrations at AXIS + LITTLE FRIDA'S COFFEE HOUSE featuring live entertainment

American Sign Language Interpretation

Seraiah Carol
Singer/Diva

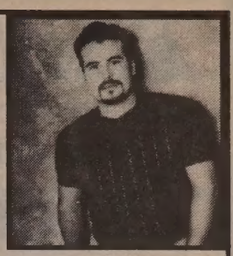
Pansy Division
Rock Band

Carlease
Comic/Singer

Lea Delaria
Comic/Actress

West Coast Singers
Chorale

Rashida Shah
Singer/Diva



Ant
Comic/Actor

Susan Fitz-Simon
Singer

Mimi Gonzalez
Comic

Lava Diva
Vocal Band

East West Players
Theater Troupe

Cat B'lues
All-woman Soul/Rock Band

plus
Coco and Her Band
Latin Dance Band
&
Eileen Pagan
Salsa Dancer
&
Adrian Collins
Comic/Writer

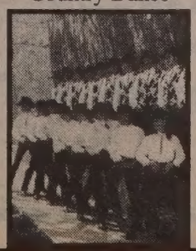
Jim Berenholtz
Snake Charmer

Girl Jesus
Punk Band

CANDY KANE
Queen of Jump Swing

Blazon Bamn! Productions
Theater Troupe

Midnight Cowboys
Country Dance



Plus
Madigan
Vocal Band
&
Pua Olena's
Polynesia Dance Troupe
&
Latoya Latex &
Honeysuckle
Daring Drag Queens

WITH OVER **25,000**
AFRICENTRIC HOMOSEXUALS AND THEIR FRIENDS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY (AND IN SWITZERLAND AND ENGLAND) READING SBC, YOU'RE **BOUND** TO MAKE THAT BUSINESS, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND/OR PERSONAL

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YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR.

HERES HOW:

Please print and sign where indicated. None of this information will appear in your ad and all information shall remain confidential.You must be 18 years or older to place an ad.

name

address

city state zip

phone number (with area code)

"I am at least 18 years old and consent to the placing of my ad in SBC. I understand that SBC Publishers is in no way responsible for any transactions between myself and any person I contact or who contacts me through my ad in SBC."

your signature

Please PRINT your ad here:

All Classifieds and Paid Personals are $15 for up to 25 words. Additional words past 25 are 20 cents each. You must include your phone number, whether it appears in your ad or not. All Personal ads must be verified prior to publication by telephone.

The first 25 words or less.....$ 15.00

Additional words (@ 20¢ per word over 25).....

Total Due.....

Mail your check or money order with this completed form for the total due to:
SBC/ 1155 4TH AVENUE/ LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90019
Payment must accompany all orders.

SBC PaID CLASSIFIeDS anD PERSONALs

EMPLOYMENT/BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE UNITY FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH (UFMCC): The primary focus of this position is providing administrative support to the Director of Administration. Other duties will include organizing human resources and office management systems to include supervision of clerical staff and maintenance of equipment; providing administrative support for meetings and conferences and managing corporate retrieval systems. Skills: Good communications skills; proficiency in WordPerfect for Windows, expertise and experience in human resources and office management; supervisory skills. Fax or mail resume to Mr. Ravi Verma, 8704 Santa Monica Blvd. 2nd floor, West Hollywood CA 90069, FAX 310.360.8680. SAlary range: $25,000-$27,000 annual salary. Excellent benefits. Deadline to apply: October 18, 1996. UFMCC is an international Christian denomination with a primary ministry in the lesbian and gay community. It has more than 32,000 members and adherents in 17 countries.

BLACK MALE MODELS WANTED:New company specializing in Black and Latino models, seeks male models. All models must be 18-35, good-looking, muscular and well-endowed.
For nude and semi-nude photos, magazine, videowork. Send sample photo(s) to Mocha Adult Entertainment, 505 So. Beverly Dr., #1453, Beverly Hills, CA 90212

L.A. CLASSIFIEDS
ORGANIZATIONS/GROUPS/MEETINGS

HEY BROTHER, WE HAVE A LOT TO TALK ABOUT! Real friendships start with a hello. Say hello to your brothers in a non-judgmental, supportive environment where group discussions touch on subjects of concerned to all of us as Black gay men. Come join in on The Black Gay Men's Rap. We meet every Friday at 7 pm at the Unity Fellowship Center, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., two blocks West of La Brea in the Baldwin Hills area of Los Angeles. For more information please call 213.936.4948.

FREE COMEDY IMPROV WORKSHOP IN WEST HOLLYWOOD continuing every Thursday evening from 7:30 PM to 10:30 PM. There are a group off comics, actors, writers, directors and professionals who meet to explore their uniqueness through exercises and games encompassing improvisational comedy with a Groundlings background. This workshop is free. At The Actors Lab, located at 1514 North Gardner Avenue in West Hollywood. For reservations please call 310.659.2227.

HEART TO HEART TOUCH PLAYSHOPS: Join fun & intimacy in nonsexual supportive touch activities. 7:30 PM, Wednesdays at 8000 Sunset Blvd. Community Room. West Hollywood. 2nd and 4th Thursdays at The Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Community Center. 2017 E. 4th. Long Beach. $10. 213.891.6000

L.A. PERSONALS

DIAL-A-DATE "AN INTRODUCTION NETWORK FOR BLACK GAY MEN" Our monthly newsletter provides contacts for single Black gay men seeking relationships, friendships and dating. To receive information on "Dial-A-Date" call 213.980.3373 or send a self addressed stamped envelope to: 289 So. Robertson Bl. #401 Beverly Hills, Ca. 90211

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL PERSONALS AND PEN PALS

CRAZY, SEXY, COOL & HOT BROTHER. Single black attractive man, 32 years old, 10 solid inches, 5' 10", 155 lbs, former SBC centerfold model, likes Oleta Adams, Randy Crawford & Phyllis Hyman. Also likes long hot bubble baths & a rough game of basketball. You: 25-35 yrs. old, 5' 8" to 6' 1", 160 to 180 lbs., nice ass & also hung. Bald head is O.K. I love a black man with a goatee & who takes care of his body & mind & must have strong legs. No smokers. Let's get to know one another. You must also live in Memphis, L.A. or South Carolina, but I will answer all. Make that move. Real Black Men Only. Write to Erick/ 4643 Pecan Street/ New Orleans, Louisiana 70126

EUROPE BOYS AND GENTLEMEN 18 AND OVER WOULD LIKE TO MEET AMERICAN GUYS from anywhere in U.S. to share friendship and exchange visits in U.S.A./France, Belgium, Luxembourg or Switzerland. Write to Pierre Castan/ 4, place du Temple/ F-30620 Bernis/ France

FRENCH GENTLEMAN 49 YEARS OLD PARISIAN ARTS PAINTING RESIDENT CASABLANCA/MOROCCO seeks masculine-aggressive top man. Must know how to handle long love sessions. You to be well hung black American, Spanish or Europe. Pierre Margot/ Villa Safir/ Carrejour Rues El Jahidz/ Et Yacoub El Mansour/ 20650 Mohammedia/ Maroc (Morocco)/ Fax.011.33.6671.1712

ARTISTE-PEINTRE 49 ANS RESIDENT AU MAROC desire connaitre - Black Americains us ou Latin - ou Europeans est - viril - actif echange de visite ok entre France - Marco et vous. Pierre Margot/ Villa Safir/ Carrejour Rues El Jahidz/ Et Yacoub El Mansour/ 20650 Mohammedia/ Maroc (Morocco)/ Fax.011.33.6671.1712

FOR SEX AS A SPIRIT TRIP, (Black) Body/Soul mate wanted to seek God in whatever sexual ecstacies. 5' 11", cut 7", 175 lbs., mustache, good looking, HIV-, late 40s WM, Christian at core, versatile bottom seeks trim to slim, mission oriented, compatible searcher with the body-heart-spirit mutuality blacks have shown me. Travel nationwide. Write to P.O. Box 235/ 43 Main Street SE/ Minneapolis, Mn. 55414

LOOKING FOR LOVE & AFFECTION FROM A STRONG BLACK MAN 45 for a white male in my 50s in Dallas, Texas to embrace me and be with me for the rest of my life as a true friend and lover. Eddie. 214.946.7325

SINGLE BLACK GAY MAN, 5' 8", 160 lbs., brown skin complexion, brown hair and eyes, moustache, HIV+ (in good health) seeking other black gay/bisexual men ages: 28 to 39, well to muscular built (bodybuilder a plus) for friendship, possible relationship. Must be a caring and sincere person. If this is you and you want to communicate with me, write me. Paul Cordell Shields/ 6503 South May Street Chicago, IL 60621.

FREE LIVE CHAT! Unrestricted national: 970.265.7878. Limited Southern California access: 213.680.7511. 18 years old + only. Usual toll only.

ARIZONA

RELATIONSHIP ORIENTED, EXCEPTIONALLY ATTRACTIVE GHM in Northern Arizona. I'm 5' 9", 175 lbs., Br/Br, 501's, cowboy type, masc., musc., nice furry chest and butt, professional, late 40's, total bottom. ISO Attractive GBM Topman only for LTR. I enjoy the outdoors, travel, music, movies, working out, quiet times. I travel to Southern California often. I'm affectionate, sincere, romaantic. UB2. Seeking monogamous only, 35-50. Endowed A+. Letter/photo to: Boxholder, Suite 300-155, 2700 Woodlands Village Bl., Flagstaff, Arizona 86001

CALIFORNIA

HANDSOME, LIGHT-COMPLEXIONED, 20 YEAR OLD, 5' 10", 160 LBS., TOP BROTHER seeking an attractive Brother from 18 to 35 with intelligence and sexiness. Muscular A+. Send reply and photo to: Gary Reddick II/ 1308 Camellia Drive/ Palo Alto, CA 94303

WELL ENDOWED BLACK MAN SEEKS SAME. 5 ft, 6 in, 175 lbs, new in the SF Bay area. Looking 4 other black male friends and more with that special discreet man. If U R looking 4 a good man 4 a lover or a lasting friendship & UR attractive, black, fit, HIV-, let's talk. No fems, queens, overweights PLEASE! U'll be glad U did. P.O. Box 1255/ Oakland, CA 94561-1255

DISCREET PROFESSIONAL BLACK MALE loves the feel of big bodies, will give full-body massage from head to toe with herbal oils and my therapeutic hands and fingers to chubby, chunky, muscular black guys weighing from 290 to 300 lbs. qith super big thighs and super big butts. 213.933.3098

STRIKINGLY HANDSOME BM, MOUSTACHE, GREAT SMILE, MASC., MUSC., MILITARY, 38, TOP, clean, healthy (HIV-), safe. Seek similar musc. men 20's - 40's with strong bodies and minds. No drugs. All races encouraged (especially mixed race). Lean and slender A+. Come visit me in San Diego. I'm worth the effort. 619.423.7754

BEFORE TRAVELLING TO OAKLAND call day or night 1.900.285.5050 Ext. 972. For street scene. $2.00 per minute. 18 yrs. and older. Strauss Communications 408.625.1910

MARYLAND

ME: WELL HUNG, MUSCULAR, AFFECTIONATE, CLEAN-SHAVEN BM, 5' 10", 31w, 175 lbs. You: small waist and big protruding bubble butt. Let's connect for some man loving. Harold P.O. Box 22263/ Baltimore, Md. 21203-4263

TEXAS

LOOKING FOR LOVE & AFFECTION FROM A STRONG BLACK MAN 45 for a white male in my 50s in Dallas, Texas to embrace me and be with me for the rest of my life as a true friend and lover. Eddie. 214.946.7325

WASHINGTON D.C.

ISO GBM 35-55, career/goal-oriented, financially independent, settled/secured in Washington D.C. fit, non-smoker, willing/able to commit to a relationship. I am GWM, 47, 6', 170 lbs. with same attributes, who is masculine, athletic, spiritual and enjoys working out, music, quality friendships, and is a good communicator and very romantic. J.J. Box 18091/ Washington D.C. 20036

SBC SoUthErn CALifOrniA Man meEt

YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT. NOW HERE'S WHERE IT IS

TO RESPOND TO A SPECIFIC SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AD, MAKE NOTE OF THE FOUR DIGIT BOX NUMBER FOLLOWING THE AD. THEN CALL 1-900-744-4SBC (4722) AND FOLLOW THE PROMPTS. OR CALL 1-900-744-4SBC (4722) TO BROWSE THROUGH OUR HUGE SELECTION OF LOCAL VOICE ADS. YOU MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER. ALL CALLS ARE $1.45 PER MINUTE/$1.95 FOR THE FIRST MINUTE. 1-900-744-4SBC CAN BE ACCESSED FROM MOST SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA CODES.

ARTISTIC CHILD OF THE GODS STRANDED ON THIS WORLD... At least I feel like that most of the time. I am a 27 year old brother young at heart. 5' 7", 138 lbs., slim, lightskin, passive, aspiring Parapsychologist featured in upcoming issue of SBC. I have a lot of interests. Looking to meet like minded (fun) masculine men. Thanks, Box # 1472

VERY HANDSOME HIV- BGM. Great personality, mid-20's, 6' 1", 175 lbs., 9 hot cut inches, in search of good-looking White or Latino, 25-40, HIV-, for good times and sex. It's all good. Box # 1446

GOT 2B REAL! HANDSOME GBM (GINGERBREADMAN), 35, red-brown, 5' 9", 145 lbs., artist, HIV?. Enjoys life, arts, people, music (Snoop To Jessye), dancing, travel, bed (versatile). ISO dark, handsome, GBM (African, African-American or West Indian), mature (23-37), in-shape, creative, alive, passionate, vice-less, doer. RU REAL? Let's talk. Box # 1391

TLC SPECIAL FOR GENTLE BM FROM ONE OF THE NICEST, SWEETEST, GENTLEST GM'S IN L.A. Me: creative, artistic, kind, intelligent, romantic, non-smoking, drug-free professional with mediterranean complexion, tall, slender, in-shape HIV-, 51. Interests include the arts, photography, travel, cooking. UB slender, or average built, interested in meeting. Box # 1439

35 Y.O. GBM, IVY LEAGUE EDUCATED, PROFESSIONAL, CARING, CONSIDERATE, MASCULINE AND HONEST. I'm a Top, 6' 3", 245 lbs., HIV- and very handsome. I'm financially secure and looking for a stable, monogamous relationship. Seeking a handsome, 28-40, HIV-male, over 5' 10", medium build who's also college educated, professional and very masculine. Be mature, emotionally stable and ready to commit to building a relationship. You should enjoy theatre, dining out and traveling. I'm looking for a reserved, yet confident, considerate, down to earth man. Please no fems, smokers, drinkers. If only interested in one night stands and having a good time, do not respond. Box # 2183

SEXY BLACK AND HISPANIC STUDENT, 22 y.o., 5' 11", 170 lbs., seeks honest, affectionate, sexy, intelligent, stable top black man 4 special friendship or possible relationship. Must enjoy being loved and caressed. Masculine, muscular men only apply. Dark skin brothers A+. Please, no fats, fems, games or perverts. Box # 2233

EURASIAN GM, 35, 5' 6", 140 LBS., ATTRACTIVE, IN GOOD SHAPE, BOTTOM/VERSATILE, Likes movies, travel, reading, sports, music, ISO GBM under 40, atrractive, masculine, in good shape w/a sense of humor. Box # 1887

WANTED: ASIAN MALE WHO'S MATURE OR BLACK MALE 45 YRS. OR OLDER by 29 yrs. old, 6' 3", 185 lbs., affectionate, Africentric male. Europeanized types need not apply. Box # 1484

ATTENTION GAY AFRICANS. I can't be the only gay African in L.A., let alone North America! 32 yr. old professional Black man from East Africa would like to get in touch with other gay Africans in the U.S. to share experiences and for friendship. Box # 1426

VERY CUTE, VERY ORAL, YOUNG, FIT, HIV NEGATIVE BLACK MAN! Looking 4 committed/non-committed relationship. U.B. healthy, in good shape, single/couple/or...? Any race with a constant need to blow off some steam! My motto: "If it's not all over your face...it shouldn't be in your mouth!" Box # 1475

ATTRACTIVE, MUSCULAR, WHITE FOREIGNER, Great bubble butt, 37, 180 lbs., 5' 10", green-blue eyes, discreet, fun, seeks safe, hot action with extremely muscular black hunk over 220 lbs., willing to plug my hole with his huge, thick heat-seeking missile. You won't be sorry. Box # 1638

WHITE MALE ISO MASCULINE BLACK MALE OF QUALITY FOR DATING IN LONG BEACH. Me: 40, attractive, 5' 6", 155 lbs., medium build, caring, loving, honest, completely versatile. You: 25-45, masculine, be able to carry on an intelligent conversation, should love fun parks, beach, picnics, and generally having a great time. HIV+ OK. Generally let's talk. Peace. Box # 2186

YOUNG AT HEART 37 Y.O. LIGHT SKIN MALE, HIV+, looking for a down to earth, positive attitude Puerto Rican or West Indian. I'm well-endowed but versatile for the right person, for fun in the sun into the night. Box # 2184

GBM, 20, 5' 11", 155 LBS., HANDSOME WITH LIGHT SKIN, very outgoing and independent, looking for Black male, age 20-25, 6 feet or taller, for friendship and possible relationship. Please, no fems. Serious callers only. Box # 1443

HOT WHITE BOTTOM SEEKS BLACK TOP. I'm a good-looking, masculine, hot and horny bottom, 5' 10", 155 lbs., 36 y.o. with a tight and hungry hole. I seek black tops 30-50 to plow me deep and hard. I'll make you cum real good deep inside. Long Beach area is best.
Box # 3120

TALL, HANDSOME GBM ISO SAME UB honest with no games, drugs or drink. Just good fun. I am 35 y.o., 6' 4", 204 lbs., with a 'stache. No fats, fems or bullshit (games). Box # 1658

EXHALE ON THIS: Handsome, intelligent BM, 35, into music, art, literature, film, seeks culturally literate man, any race, who is emotionally available and not afraid of real intimacy. I'm the one. Box # 1390

CUTE, AFFECTIONATE, SENSITIVE GBM, 6 FT., 180 LBS. Not financially secure! Into dancing, music, especially industrial/alternative, computers, reading, body piercing, etc...seeks clean-shaven, long-haired Asian/Filipino male for friendship, maybe more. Fems are OK. I'm very inexperienced, hopefully you'll be also. Box # 1484

GOOD LOOKING BROTHER BUILT LIKE A FOOTBALL PLAYER hung long and thick 10+ seek other big tool dudes for safe good times. Box # 1444

HOT LOOKING LATINO OR BLACK MALE WANTED: 21-30 with a big, powerful dick and great ass, versatile or bottom to fuck and suck you all night long. Must be well built and masculine. Me: Xtremely masculine, Latino, 35, 5' 9", 160 lbs., very horny, well hung. Cholo/homeboy ok. Friendship, fun or sex. Box # 3126

MASCULINE GAY LATIN MALE in search of top Blacks. I'm 5' 6", 150 lbs. Let's talk. Box # 4144

STRAIGHT ACTING 31 YEAR OLD BLACK MALE looking for friendship and possible relationship. I'm 5' 11", 205 lbs., HIV-, quiet/shy/funny/masculine/caring, in the music business so I'm keeping it on the D.L. Want to chill after a long day of music madness. Looking for the same. No games!!! Box # 1616

WHERE ARE THE REAL MEN? Look no more. 100% macho, butch, masculine, straight acting. 6' 2", 185 lbs. of pure Latin man. In search of Black men who offer the same characteristics. I am versatile but want to find out more about being at the bottom. No sissy or wimp here. All others need not respond. You had the rest, now go for the best. Box # 2152

TOP GBM, 5' 8", 140 LBS., 34, LOOKING FOR BOTTOM WHITE MALES, 18-45. Looks unimportant. Must be discreet. Long Beach or South L.A. a plus. 8 1/2" dick to please. No fems. Box # 2194

BOTTOM BOY WANTED BY ATTRACTIVE, BIG DICK GBM, 25 years old, in-shape. Looking for hot, in-shape white and latin men who can take long, deep sessions. In-shape men only. Box # 1395

LOOKING FOR A LOVE TO CALL MY OWN. I am a slender, tall, top, gay black male, age 31, 6' 1", 170 lbs. ISO black or Puerto Rican, same height and weight, between the ages of 31-39 only. No fems. Let's talk and date first. Box # 1380

WGM ISO MICHAEL JORDAN, LL COOL J, BO JACKSON TYPE. I'm 5' 7", 140 lbs., hairy, shaved head, great smile. I like my man to be sensitive, caring, loving, strong mentally & emotionally, romantic, likes to kiss, hold hands, fondle, caress, foreplay. Into sports, working out, movies, dining out, weekend trips, beach, T.V., talking and gazing into each other's eyes. Penis size not important, top or bottom not important. HIV+ a plus. Sounds all good? Let's make a date! Box # 1450

HIV+ GWM, 29 Y.O, 6' 2", 195 LBS. NEW 2 CA. I think it's only fare 2 say I'm looking 4 romance. I'm looking for an equal who is caring, honest & a person who knows love when offered. Box # 2174

BM 42, 6' 2", 220 LBS., HANDSOME, IN SHAPE seeks L.A. man for good times and discovering all that L.A. has to offer. Interests include outdoors, amusement parks, traveling, movies, biking, jazz. Masculine guys only! NS/ND/No Drugs. Live in L.A. Not into games! Thanks. Box # 2172

HANDSOME, ROMANTIC BLACK PASSIONATE TOP MAN. Black male, 6'1, 190 lbs., looking for a hot Black man with nice body who wants really nice, warm and passionate love made to him. Box # 1026

SEXY BM, 27, MASCULINE, MATURE, MUSCULAR, VERSATILE, 5' 8", 150 lbs., seeks another well-endowed Bi or GM, versatile or bottom, between 25-45 for sexcapade and friendship. Masculine, mature, muscular only need apply. Box # 2250

WANTED: ATTRACTIVE, IN SHAPE B/BOY WITH A BEAUTIFUL KNOCKOUT MAN BUTT TO CUM SIT ON MY FACE. Me: Attractive, hairy, beautiful, big thick dick w/boy (Italian) with knockout bikers/runners muscular legs. I want to taste the best butt out there. Smooth/shaved a plus. HIV- a must. Box # 3303

ATTRACTIVE, STABLE, CREATIVE, GBM MUSICIAN, 6' 1", 150 lbs., 38, honest, caring, affectionate, laid-back, quiet yet strong, masculine and faithful. My passions are acoustic jazz, cultural explorations, laughing, touching, movies, reading, togetherness, tennis and bowling. Seeking a "team player" of similar mind to develop a mutually supportive companionship. Box # 4090

AFRICENTRIC MALE, 6' 2", 30 YEARS OLD. I caress for a man from the Afrikan Diaspora who's melanin is sensual to see, erotic to touch, and a pleasure to taste. A man who is warm, caring, and culturally together! What ever be your pleasure will be mine. Committed or uncommitted. Box # 1458

BOTTOMS ONLY. Buttman loves to ride a firm ass to get it loose with the juice. I'm a Bi BM, 6' 1", 245 lbs., HIV-, and love to take pictures of my artwork. Mid-Wilshire Area. Box # 1397

SWEET, SMART, SEXY, REDBONE PISCES. An artist/performer & hot lover by nature. 31 y.o., 5' 11", 180 lbs., HIV+, versatile, attractive & loving. ISO self-confident, not arrogant BM, over 5' 10", under 6 inches long (it's gotten tight), versatile, exciting and compatible with the above. Box # 1406

BLACK MALE, 34, 5' 10", 180 LBS., HIV-, NONSMOKER, NO DRUGS. Looking for a Black male close to my build and age for friendship or more. Also must be sexually versatile. Box # 1410

STUD MUSCLE DUDE, TUFF & COCKY looking for hung Brothers that got it goin on, especially little guys or guys with big feet. Looking for guys with lots of stamina cause I always wear everybody out--No B.S.! Check out this great body, straight acting guy & we'll kick it! Sam. Box # 1434

VGL, 34 Y/O, 5' 10", 160 LBS., IN EXCELLENT SHAPE with Mediterranean features (olive skin, dark eyes & dark hair, hairy chest, straight acting, professional, seeking a very special, masculine, straight acting and appearing professional man who values a romantic, monogamous, long-term relationship. He must be healthy, handsome & an honest and aggressive gentleman. Box # 2160

TALL, THIN, GOOD-LOOKING, BIG DICK BROTHER WANTS SAME. I'm hot for 9 inches or more. You be too. Let's bump and grind. Box # 1405

ATTRACTIVE ROUGHNECK HOODRAT SOUTH CENTRAL GETTIN IT BLK MALE 6ft, 165 lb., slim built, is seeking same. UB Pan African or Carribean or West Indian, a big plus. No fats or fems. This is the last ad you need to see. Be young and i shape. Box # 1482

GBM, 35, 6', 190 LBS., VERY HANDSOME, NICE BUILD, ARTICULATE AND WELL INFORMED seeks African American male 30-45. Must be masculine and professional. Versatile an absolute must. Box # 1459

TOUGH 'N TENDER; ELEGANT 'N FREAKY. Live in the Global LeatherFetish Village w/White Leather GRIOT, 58. Lookin' Great! Feelin' Great! Ready to train 'chosen' New-Century Black Warrior, any age, in a dominant/submissive total LoveStyle. Achieve and receive all benefits and fame that full partnership can Bring. Box #4088

TOP GBM, 33, 5' 8", 160 LBS. 9" HANDSOME. You: 24+ in shape, attractive light skin bottom, looking for companion and possible relationship. Box # 4040

MAN MEET

AGGRESSIVE, DOMINANT TOP WANTED FOR SOME HOT ACTION. Any race or age. I'm Italian, 45, 6', football player build. Box # 4094

VERY GOOD LOOKING DARK SKIN BGM, 37 YEARS OLD, 5' 10 1/2, 190 LBS. new from the Bay Area, ISO a BGM around the same height and weight between 28-40 and who is versatile. No fems, no fakes, no drug addicts. Box #1868

MUSCLE TO MUSCLE. FREAKY RUGGED RUFF STUFF. Hot hairy VGL WM BB, 42, 6', 195 buffed pounds. HIV-, works out/over/on muscular men who can get lowdown and dirty. Into SM, BD. Also, mutual scenes/power exchange with other heavy studs. Pluses: Hairy and big balls. Box # 4088

AGGRESSIVE DOMINANT TOP WANTED FOR SOME HOT ACTION. Any race or age. I'm Italian, 45, 6', football player build. Box # 4087

I'M LOOKING FOR A STRONG, BEAUTIFUL BLACK MAN INSIDE AND OUT who is sure of himself and interested in more out of life. I'm sincere, honest and laugh all the time, I'm just looking for a nice man to sum it all up. Let me hear from ya. Box # 2261

BLK, 34, ROUGHNECK, HIV+ looking for other roughneck HIV+, 28-45. Very muscular, versatile, love to cook, 5' 6"-6'2". No smoker, drugs, but bud smoker OK! Box # 1398

ASIAN TREASURE! I am handsome, clean-cut, versatile, sensual, great personality. Let's get together for safe & erotic fun. I'll massage your whole body if UR masculine & smooth. UB HIV-, discreet, 18-35, no games, flakes or drugs. Relax & enjoy. Long Beach area. Box # 2156

BLOND, BLUE EYES, 24, GOOD LOOKING. I'm looking for Black Men 18-30 who are good looking and ready to ride. Light skin with goatee or moustache A+. Box # 2223

YOU'RE NEVER GONNA GET IT!!! Unless you are a masculine, Top, Black male, 25-35, Tall, in-shape, handsome and at least 8 inches. I'm 27, 6', 170 lbs., caramel skin, looking for someone to have fun/sex with. I love the movies and dining out. HIV-. UB2. Box # 1473

VERY ATTRACTIVE LIGHT-SKINNED GBM, 22 Y/O, 5' 8", 155 LBS. Looking 4 pretty boy Tops who have their heads on straight. I'm a down-to-earth, good-looking-straight-appearing kinda brother. Looking for the same. Fine brothers only. Ring me. No disappointments. Box # 4091

DISCREET PROFESSIONAL BLACK MALE loves the feel of big bodies---will give full-body massage from head to toe with herbal oils and my therapeutic hands and fingers to chubby, chunky muscular Black guys weighing from 290 to 300 lbs. with super big thighs and super big butts. Box # 1750

QUE PASA? PUERTORIQUENO DE 23 ANOS, DE ALTURA REGULAR Y CURPO mediano, moreno, busca companero latino masculino, alto, con verga y wevos grande. Me gusta disfruter mucho, afuera y dentro de la cama! Soy sincero, simpatico, decente, y busco alquien con la mismas qualidades! Si quieres harcelo Llama Attora! Box # 4083

ATTRACTIVE DARK SKIN BOTTOM WITH A GREAT SMILE AND ASS. I'm 6' tall, 165 lbs., gymnast. ISO tall, uncut Black or PR tops with a basketball build. Box # 1387

THIS MASCULINE, ATTRACTIVE, BALD-HEADED BROTHER WANTS TO FUCK AND SUCK YOU ALL NIGHT LONG. I'm 5' 10", 165 lbs., in shape. If you're real hot, call me. Box # 1185

HOPELESSLY ROMANTIC GBM, 32, 6' 1", 145 LBS., fun-loving and caring. Enjoys quiet romantic nights and cuddling. Seeks serious-minded individual for fun, friendship and/or possible relationship. Box # 1186

23 YEAR OLD GWM, 6' 3", GOODLOOKING, SWIMMER BUILT, blonde/blue, ex-Marine, financially secure, professional, own home. Interests: romantic evenings, weekend travel, music, good food, interior design, gardening & conversation. Searching for partner in life, mid 20's-early 30's, attractive, stable, romantic, horny, out to family, day worker. Race not important. All with photo answered. Box # 3131

CARIBBEAN NATIVE: SUCCESSFUL, CUTE, FRENCH-SPEAKING, 34, 5' 9", 140 LBS. New to L.A., into cycling, swimming, travel and romance. Looking for a special, independent, masculine topman, any age, who appreciates the finer things in life. Homeboy or cholo type will be considered. Box # 1133

NEW FROM TEXAS. WOULD YOU LIKE A SUPER-FREAK? Well I'm into stud black tops with big huge cocks who know what they want. Must be 25-35, top and real. I'm a 25 GWM, 6', 190 lbs. blonde, green eyes and excellent underneath. Someone who will last. Box # 1377

AFFECTIONATE, EASY-GOING, FUN TO BE WITH GAY ASIAN MALE seeks straight-acting or straight man of color for friendship and maybe much more. Box # 2090

BLACK MALE, 6' 1", 34 YEARS OLD. I'm a bottom who is looking for a well hung cock on a masculine male to work on this "hot" ass all night long. If this sounds good to you, give me a call. Box # 2089

GBM, HOT, MASCULINE, INDEPENDENT, SHY, sexually passive bottom with potential, seeks Black, aggressive gentleman for intimacy and fun. Hairy chest and hung a plus. Looks unimportant. Boy, call me! I'll cook. Box # 1333

MATURE GUY LOOKING FOR MENTALLY-ORIENTED BLACK GUYS WHO ENJOY MESSING WITH A WHITE MIND and are amused at what they find deep in that mind. I am an offbeat exhibitionist, entranced by the black male. Mental, verbal, phone correspondence, pix. Hard to find right black man to play with my head. Box # 4121

HANDSOME & ROMANTIC TOP. A 30 years old Brother, 6 ft., 165 lbs., HIV-, is seeking a romantic Brother in his 30's for candle light dinners, theater, quiet evenings of invigorating conversation and much more. Box # 2028

BM, 25 YEARS OLD, 5' 9", 165 LBS. TOP, looking for Bottom, 18-25 years, for serious commitment. Masculinity is mandatory. No fakes. Box # 2045

KIND, LOVING AND AFFECTIONATE BLACK MAN, looking for a soulmate. I'm 5' 7", 170 lbs., cocoa brown complexion, HIV+, and recently turned 40 years old. I'm very romantic, I enjoy walks on the beach, kissing, skating, bowling, working out at the gym, photography and stimulating conversations. I'm looking for a Black man who is: kind, loving, honest, has a sense of humor and who is ready for the love of a Black man! Life is so short and there is so little time!! Come...let's share a lifetime together. I'm looking forward to your call. All calls will be returned! Box # 1317

"SOFT AND WET" BLACK, BUBBLE BUTT, BOTTOM GAY BROTHA SEEKS aggressive, intelligent, educated, sophisticated, career oriented, sexy, compassionate, romantic, authentically sensual and serious minded, black, brown coffee, or walnut colored complexioned, 6' 4", 30-37 yr. old black TOP brotha who enjoys and knows how to work HARD with his wrench while screwing his bolt to fit into a socket with a tight grip. Then, "COME SEE ABOUT ME", because I need SOMETHING TO HOLD ON TO". I am a 32 year old black brotha who is now ready, willing and able "to explore a new territory, reach a new galaxy, and go where no man has gone before!!!" My "BODY IS CALLING", if you are equipped with the right tool, and its not crusty or rusty. Then, "DO ME BABY!!!" Box # 3220

REAL SIMPLE! 29 YRS./190 LBS. 6 FT. Into reading, music, herbs & their magical powers! HIV+, X-tremely healthy & good-looking. Real masculine but versatile. ISO relationship w/masculine BLK or Hsp. UB 21-35 and wanting and needing a life-long, serious, long relationship. Peace. Box #1441

WANTED: BIG DARK TOP MAN. I'm Japanese, 5' 4", 135 lbs. I'm looking for a Dark Skin GBM Top. Movies, dinner. I want to build a relationship. Box # 1403

WANTED: BLACK OR PUERTO RICAN BOTTOMS. Hot black top seeks hot hairy-ass bottom body builder. If you are hot, hairy, horny and a freak, leave a message. Box # 1190

HANDSOME, ROMANTIC BLACK PASSIONATE TOP MAN. Black male, 6'1, 190 lbs., looking for a hot Black man with nice body who wants really nice, warm and passionate love made to him. Box # 1026

W. FRENCH MAN ISO BIG BLACK TOP. I'm a great cook (including soul), healthy and playful, 5' 5", 160 lbs., 43 y.o., into arts & culture, walks, biking, roller skates, Star Trek, computers. You are intelligent, not2hairy, black non-smoker any age, HIV+ OK. Let's be friends; you can become my Prince Charming! Box # 1239

SINGLE AND FREE. I am a 30 year old unattached Top who seeks a Black Bottom, ages 29 to 31, for friendship, fun and/or sex. Box # 1273

WANTED: VERY LARGE, HARD, ROUNDED BUNS with smooth, muscular body, masculine, HIV-, easy-going, for friendship or more. Me: Hispanic, 5' 10", 180 lbs., down-to-earth, athletic body, outdoors, masculine, HIV-, well-endowed. Box # 1341

PASSIONATE AFFECTIONATE GAY ASIAN MALE wanting to meet straight-straight acting, real dark and light-skin African Americans or anyone of African decent. Box # 2038

I AM A VERY AFRICENTRIC BROTHER, age 49, 215 lbs., handsome and well educated. Seeking an Africentric Brother who is self-loving, sensitive, and caring! Age not an issue. no smokers or drugs. If you love Black people, give me a call. Hotep. Box # 2121

GAY BLACK MALE, 35, HANDICAPPED, ABLE TO FEND FOR SELF, enjoys music, life in general, romance and extremely affectionate, seeks companionship, friendship or possible relationship. Box # 1188

NO THIN LINE BETWEEN LOVE & HATE TYPE MEN HERE. ONLY REAL MEN! You: African-American, masculine, muscle toned & tall, 28-40 y/o,HIV-. Me: Hispanic, 24 y/o, 5' 6", 126 lbs. Swimmer's build & cute, HIV-. Serious & Monogamous only!!! Box # 4179

GWM, 47 Y.O., 5' 7", 145 LBS., ATTRACTIVE, SMART, DOWN TO EARTH & EASY GOING ISO masculine, secure Top GBM 40 y.o. or older. Call. Box # 4026

FINE BM TOP, 5' 11", 32 YEARS OLD. From Miami, FLA. Now lives in San Diego. ISO a BLK man, Bi or married. Must like to be a bottom when you're with me. Let's talk. You'll like what you see. Peace. Not looking for a relationship. Box # 4102

HANDSOME, BLACK 34 Y.O. DEEP THROAT. I love to give oral satisfaction to the right masculine Black man. Call me for long night sessions. Box # 1241

HOT AND HORNY TOP. Black man, 31, 5'11, 175 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, smooth toned body, big cut dick. Into good times and romance. Box # 1210

HANDSOME, PASSIONATE, MASCULINE 27 YEAR OLD BLACK MALE GRADUATE STUDENT, new to L.A., seeks professional type white or Latino male for romance. Must be masculine, handsome, intelligent, a conversationalist, not into games and between 28-36 y.o. Westside or San Fernando Valley area is best. Box # 4015

ROMANTIC CUTE GBM TOP, 23, 5' 11", HIV-, IN SHAPE, GOATEE, ISO cute, in shape gay Black, Latin, Cuban or Puerto Rican male 21-32, HIV- bottom for friendship/relationship. N2 movies, dancing, holding hands and walks on the beach. Goatee A+. No fats or fems. Box # 2153

27 Y.O. SO-CALLED WHITE DUDE ISO A "DOWN TO EARTH" PARTNER. I would love to meet an intelligent non-queeny bottom boy who would enjoy biking, camping, movies and sexing with me. I'm 5' 11", 145 lbs. UB a romantic 25-32 y.o., any race, and in the L.A./Hollywood area. Box # 1871

GAY AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALE, HIV+, 28 years old, 145 lbs., 5' 11" tall, very deep dark complexion, with a slender but tone body build. Would like to meet Gay Middle Eastern, Hispanic and Latin men between the ages of 25-35 for a monogamous slow romantic relationship, quality time and dating. Box # 1228

HOT HARDBODY TOP SEEKS HOT HARDBODY BOTTOMS for fun, good times and good love making. I'm big, black, beautiful and buff with lots of dick for yo' ass. Call me if you can take it. Box # 1174

HOT & HORNY TOP Heavy-set SBM, 5'11", 235 lbs., 6 1/2". I am a top who enjoys going out to movies & a good meal. UB masculine, SBM, 5' 10" or above, around 190 lbs., thick or muscular. No queens, excessive obesity or non-blacks. Box # 2151

WM, 48, DISTINGUISHED LOOKING, versatile professional, seeking honest, sincere, super hung, versatile, short (5'3" and under) BM for fun and possible relationship. Allen. Box # 1002

BLACK AND WHITE TOGETHER. Good-looking Gay blond male wants to please that sexy Afro-American male--bi, straight or gay! Call me--You'll like! Box # 4055

ROMANTIC AFRICAN AMERICAN TOP. 32 year old openly gay, attractive, well-endowed, masculine dark skin African

TO RESPOND TO ADS CALL 1-900-844-4SBC (4722)
$1.45 MIN/$1.95 FIRST MIN./18 OR OLDER
SERVICE PROVIDED BY CONCEPT ST. JAMES, INC. / P.O. BOX 691896, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069

American, 5' 11", 165 lbs. Into theater, literature, candle light dinners at home and romantic lovemaking. Serious only please. Box # 4017

A TAN BROWN 37 Y.O., 198 LBS ALL MASCULINE WARRIOR seeks a well-endowed Black, dark skinned warrior King to lead me into a long night battle of hot romantic sex. Well-endowed, mature Black Kings, 28-48 only. Must be cool, Black and fun to be with. Let's chill. Call me. Box # 1481

MASCULINE 34 Y.O. SEEKS SIMILAR. Blk, 200 lbs., 6 Ft., moustache, ponytail, into gym, kids, love, friendship, sex, feet, film and self-knowledge. Be real, honest, masculine and open--and I could be had. HIV, white, Hispanic okay. Box # 1024

FAT GWH WANTS SLIM GBM. SIZE UNIMPORTANT, heart and spirit vital. I'm top or bottom, whatever fits. Not into racial roles. Into tenderness, gentleness, sensuality, passion, caring. I'm 45, 5' 11", 200 lbs., curly brown hair, blue-green eyes, mustache, HIV-(you too). Don't workout/dance. Love arts, film, nature, real communication. Box # 1487

HOT AND HANDSOME BLACK MALE TOP, 29, 6' 2". I like fucking. I'm equipped to service you. Black attractive bottoms in need of good loving done the right way. Call. Be mine tonight. Let's talk. Box # 2026

TOP THIS. FIRM BUBBLE BUTT BOTTOM BLUE-EYED PRO-ATHLETE, 6' 1", 190 lbs. 33 yrs. old, hot, handsome, lean, hard-body, passionate man, seeks masculine, good-looking Black Top. Hung, sincere, who can ride this pony all night. Box # 2150

WUZ 'UP? I'M ASIAN, 5' 8", HIV-. Into baggy clothing, hip hop, break dancin', etc. UB preferably Asian 2, baggy clothing, clean type, HIV-...lookin' for some wild times, friendship and all dat + more. Box # 4098

BIG BLACK DICK LIKES TO FUCK. I'm a 26 yr. old dark skinned black man with 9 1/2 fat inches looking for sweet bottoms who want it big, thick and slow. Box # 3002

DARK WARRIORS ONLY. Seeking a GBM dark skinned warrior. I'm a hot GBM bottom, 21, cat brown eyes, light brown skinned, 5' 5", medium build. I enjoy movies, dancing, dinners, music and collecting Teddy bears. I'm seeking a GBM top, 21-35, dark skinned a plus. If you want a new friend, call. Box # 1181

PASSIONATE AFFECTIONATE GAY ASIAN MALE wanting to meet straight-straight acting, real dark and light-skin African Americans or anyone of African decent. Box # 2038

A BOTTOM SEEKING A TOP. Black gay male 39 years old, 6' 1", 200 lbs. I am looking for a Top 25-37, down to earth, loving, caring, romantic. Someone intelligent & understanding who loves to get down all night long. Please leave a message. Box # 3003

ATTRACTIVE HISPANIC BOTTOM, 44, medium build, with love buns, seeks well hung Black Top man with very thick 8" or more for prolong hot times on a regular basis. Make me take it in any way you can deliver it. Box # 1096

VGL WM, 30, 6', 192 LBS into very muscular, intelligent, fun, affectionate, communicative Black men. I am articulate, witty, fun, with a good sense of humor, into working out, music, movies and friends. I am a good catch and you should be too. Box # 2113

VERY CUTE LATINO, 5' 7", light brown eyes, curly black hair. hairy body, nice tanned color. I am stable and would like to meet Black and Latino guys (Central Americans, Caribenos) with similar qualities. Box # 2039

NICE LOOKING BM, 6' 1", 205 LBS. VERY BIG LEGS, XXXCALFS. I need BIG DICK TRADE to go deep into my pussy. Only 95% tops. Be good looking, professional, clean, nice, Black, P. Rican, Cuban, Latin. I'm manly and fem. No queens or fems, or under 9" Box # 1252

FOR THE FOOTBALL PLAYER/PRO BODY BUILDER that likes to get freaky sneaky, get with me. 5' 9", 205 lbs., int body-building. Great smile and sense of humor. Box # 1416

SHM (PUERTO RICAN), 23, HANDSOME, AVG. HEIGHT, MEDIUM BUILD. Short dark hair, moustache, goatee, brown skin. Seeking casual, tall, big, hairy or non hairy Hispanic homeboy type (18-48) top with a big (8 1/2+) thick dick! for companionship. Regular guy lkg 4 regular guy who's not into the scene, drugs, all this bullshit out here! I love to joke around and have fun in and out of bed. Let's do it together. Call me now! Box # 4079

BIG BOOTY BOTTOM BLACK. GBM, 20, 186 lbs., brown skin, 5' 11", brown eyes, seeking a very, very masculine Brotha from the West Side. You must be a Top, and tall---6 ft. or taller. Call today, baby, you won't be disappointed. Light skin men with green eyes are a plus. Box # 1469

SEXY GAM, 20'S, SMOOTH, TAN, ATHLETIC, ISO GUYS UNDER 30 for friendship, fun & more...please be sincere & down 2 earth. Into R & B, running, politics & more...call me! Box # 1336

BGM, 35, MASCULINE, MUSCULAR TOP, 5'11", 170 lbs., HIV-, seeks well-endowed GBM bottoms between 35-50 for sexual friction and casual friendship. Box # 1169

ATTRACTIVE AND ARTISTIC LIGHT SKINBGM BOTTOM LOOKING FOR A SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP. I am 5' 7", 138 lbs., slim. You are a romantic and wellread muscular, masculine top looking for a lover. Box # 1472

FOR THE BROTHA'S THAT SCREAM "KEEP IT REAL". Priority LeatherFetish Relationship with an All Due Respectful Same Gender Loving Working Black Male Who Burns the Fire of Passion Within His True Heart & Soul for -Role - In & Out of the Bedroom. To Be Apprehended By A Totally True Very Out, Educated - Street & Knowledge, Affectionate Mature & Serious White Male Loyal Partner & Educator Of Numerous Aspects. If This Sounds Like Your World, Peep Game & Report you 411 to the box #. Busta's Need to Apply. I keeps It On the up & up & I'll Take You There If It's Right - Check Out My Style. Box # 4110

BACK FROM ATLANTA with gold spirit, silver mind & bronze body, Professional WM, 5' 8", 35, deutsch, nederlabds, ISO smart, fit, HIV-, n/s, n/d GBM for real LTR. Box # 3070

SWH, 6' 2", 180 LBS. WITH TIGHT WHITE ASS-PUSSY seeks attractive, well-hung Black man for heavy plowing. I love Black ass, dick & balls. Please be dark-skinned & know how to please a man. P.S. I love to suck Black dick. Box # 4120

SBC

MAN MEET
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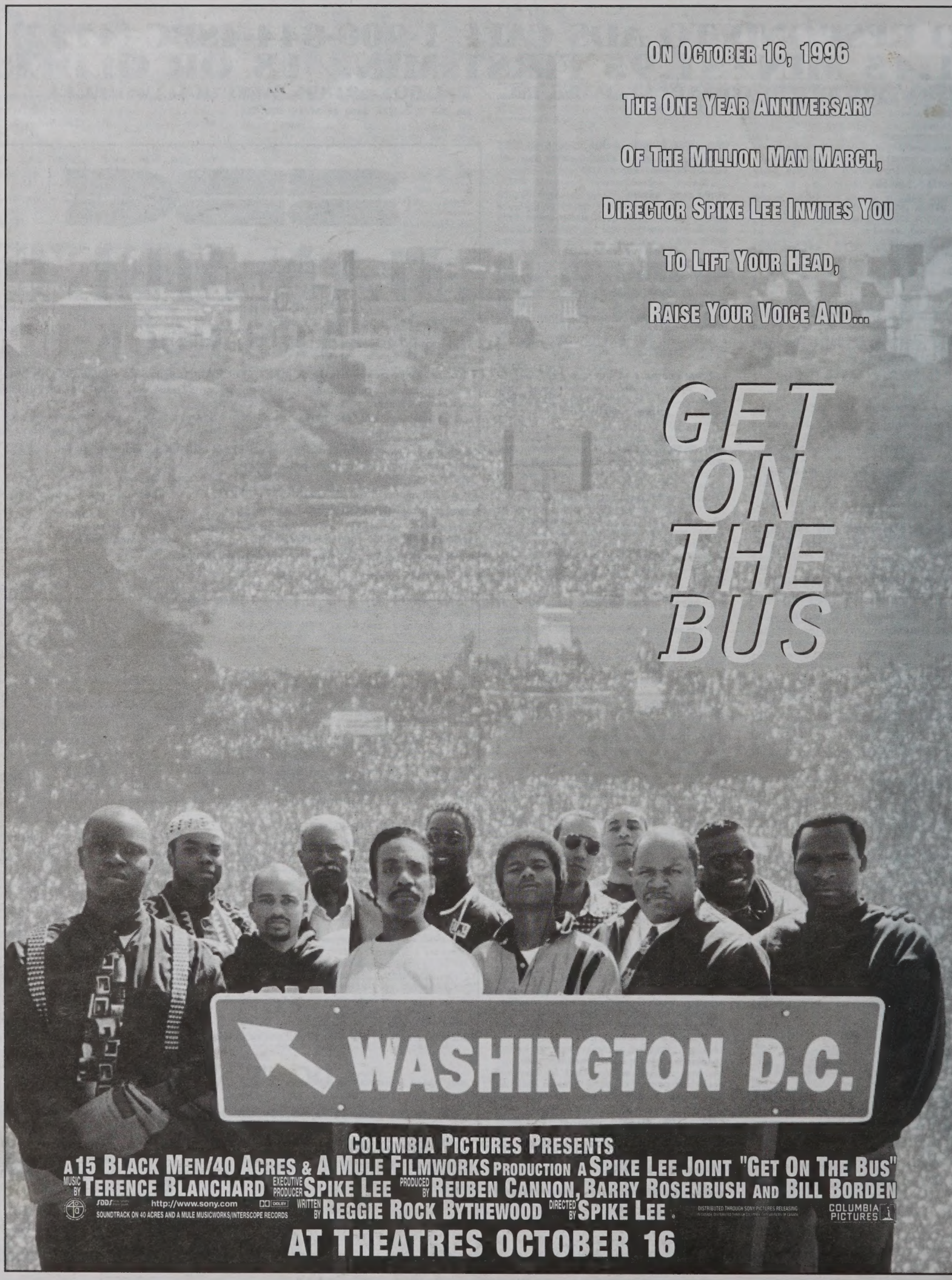
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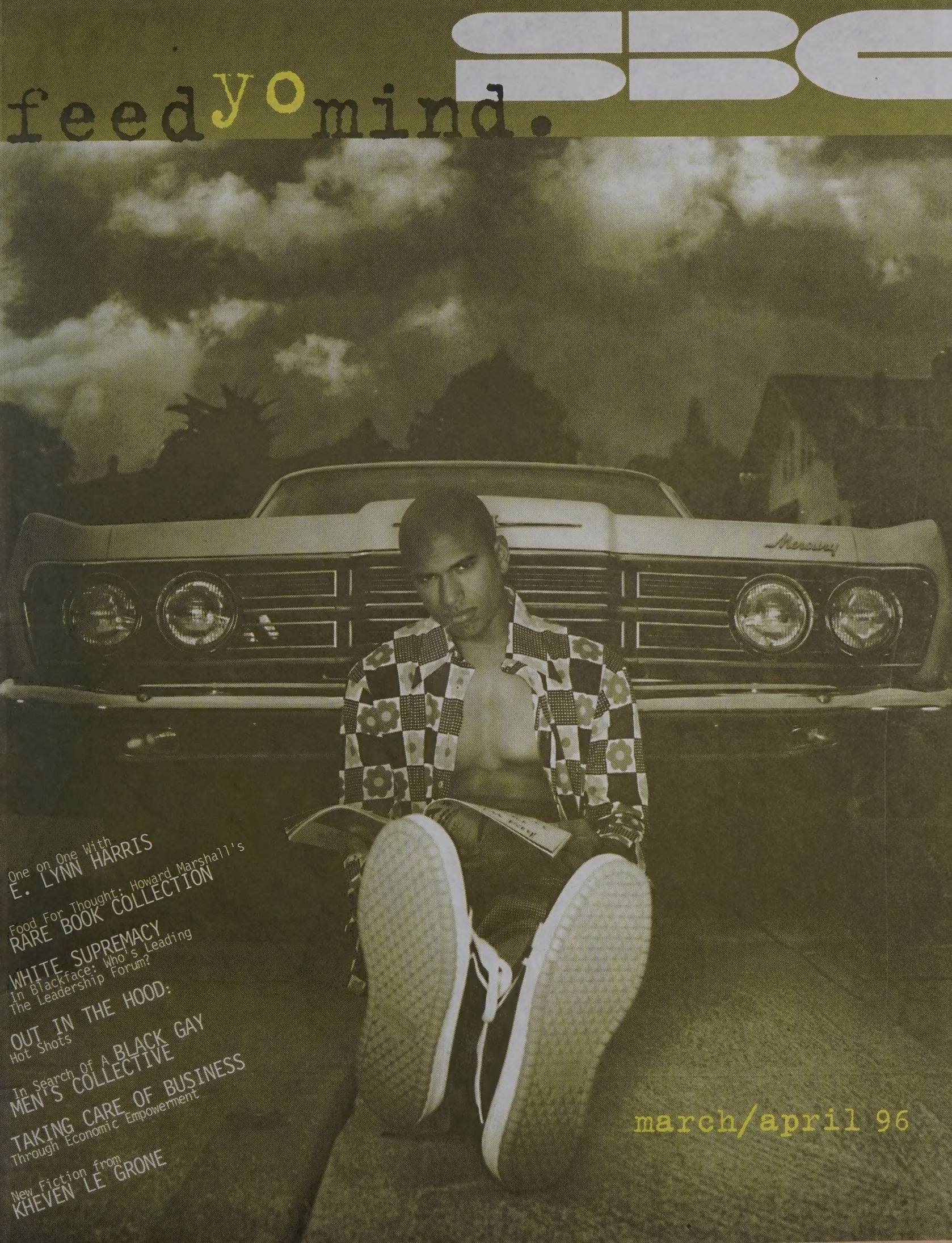

One on One With
E. LYNN HARRIS

Food For Thought: Howard Marshall's
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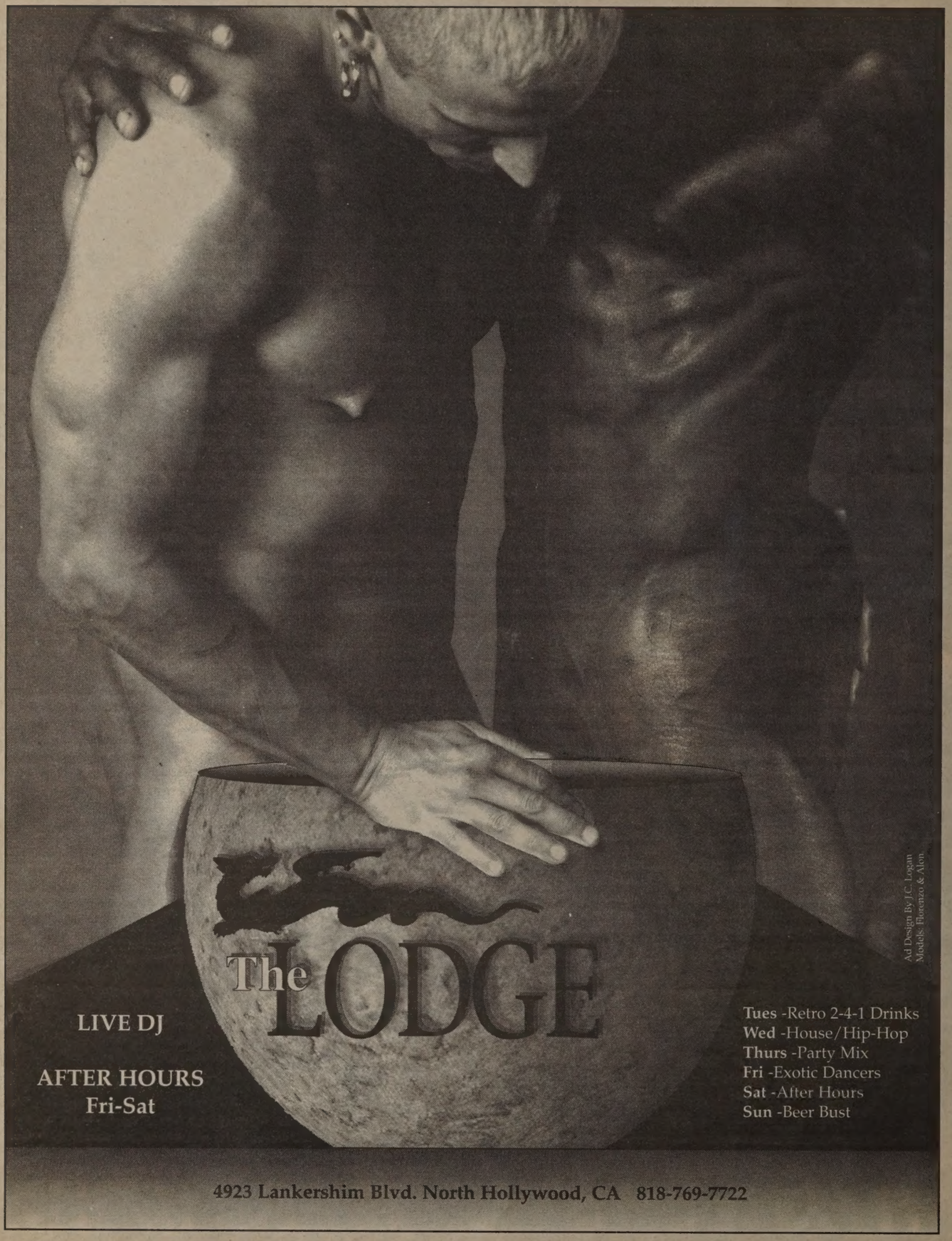
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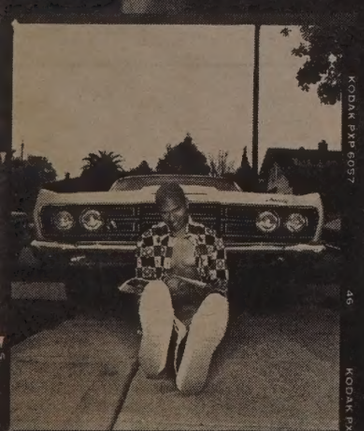

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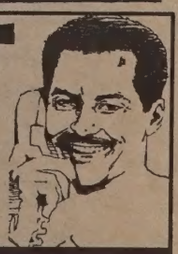

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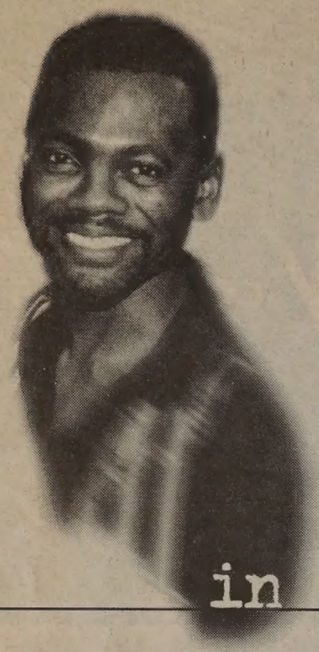

in cOncepT.

Modern technology is a wonderful thing
It makes things easier, faster and more cost-efficient
It's a wonderful thing unless you're talking about
Love, unless you're talking about thought

It's some words on some paper
And the only thing that counts
Is yo take on the shit

Feed Yo mind
Claim the final read

You don't know what my voice sounds like
You don't need to know what my voice sounds like
Or what I emphasis or exorcise or circumcise
Or canonize or demonize
My mind is mine
And yours is yours

You are your Lord
If you truly be with God.

It's some words on some paper
And the only thing that counts
Is yo take on the shit

Feed yo mind
Claim the final read

Those words on the paper
Are for you to make sense of
Or no-sense of in the private
Independence of your own
Magnificent mind.

Words on some paper

Make sense of it
Or shit it out
Or say 'no way'
Or say 'good day'
Or just say...'hey'

Feed yo mind
Claim the final read.

I love me some Patty and ReRe
And Chaka and Whitney
But the only singer that matters
To me
Is the singer called me

When I'm singing my song
In my mind for my freedom
My redemption my pain
My sorrow my happiness
From the depths of my bowel
As I howl what it means to me
To BE ME

'Cause those words on the paper
Are for me to decipher
Only I can do my 'get-off'
Scream.

Feed yo mind
Claim the final read
You own the final word

Word

STANLEY BENNETT CLAY

SBC

VOLUME FIVE ISSUE THREE
MARCH/APRIL 1996

STANLEY BENNETT CLAY
Publisher and Editor-In-Chief

Andrew C. Irving
Art Director

Gregory Eugene Travis
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Gregory Victorianne
New England Correspondent

Mark F. Johnson
New York Correspondent

Tracy C. Gibson
Philadelphia Correspondent

Curtis Jackson
Dallas Correspondent

Lynwoodt Jenkins
Atlanta Correspondent

Kheven Le Grone
Oakland/San Francisco Correspondent

Editorial Contributors:
Stanley Bennett Clay
William H. Jones Jr.
Kheven Le Grone
Cleo Manago
Donald L. Perry II
Paul M. Smith, LICSW
Gregory Eugene Travis
Gregory Victorianne

Ron Singleton
Staff Photographer

Advertising Sales:
213.733.5661 FAX 213.733.9200

National Advertising Representative:
Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 1268 Plainfield, NJ 07060
908.232.2021 Fax: 908.232.0521

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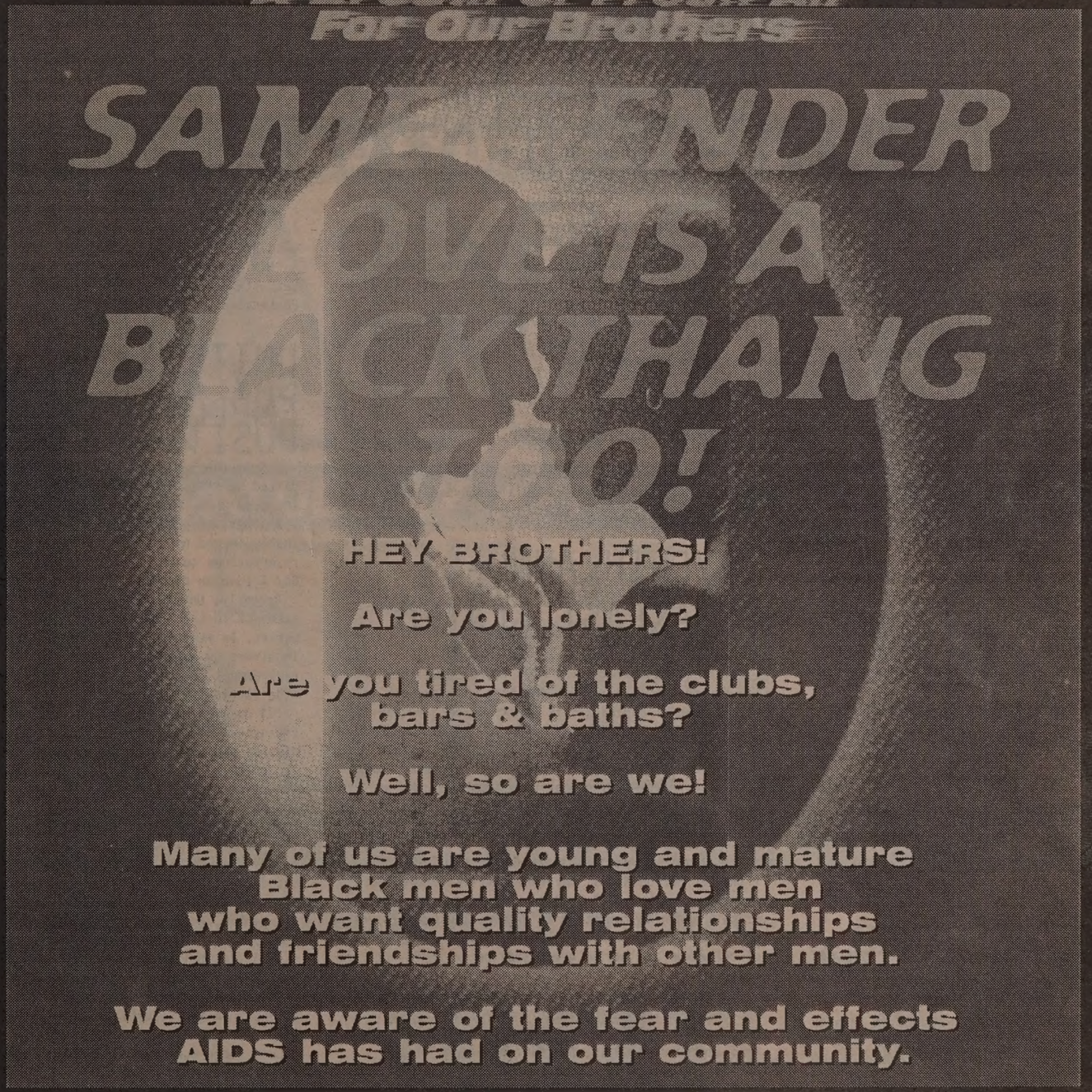
The Black Men's Xchange

BMX

A Breath of Fresh Air For Our Brothers



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411

AN SBC APOLOGY TO MINISTER CARLOS JONES

Minister Carlos Jones, who was cover-featured last month along with his companion of 4 years, Wayne Bird, in our special Valentine's Day 'Brothers In Love' issue (Vol. 5 Issue 2), called to thank us for our tribute to relationships in general and his and Wayne's relationship in particular.

He also gently pointed out our goof. He's not, as we printed, 27 years old. Minister Carlos Jones is 33 years old and very proud of it.

We apologize Minister Jones, and thanks for the encouraging and love-filled call.

THE AMASSI POSSE AND MORE COME TO INGLEWOOD

Inglewood, California – On Friday, February 23rd, the AMASSI Center of Inglewood hosted an Open House. AMASSI (an acronym for the African-American AIDS, Support-Services and Survival Institute) features a range of activities providing culturally specific emotional support, individual and group discussions, confidantes, referrals, health information and cultural events. Services are designed to empower the community (ages 13 and up) toward developing positive living skills, social, spiritual and cultural affirmation. HIV/AIDS related care, information, support, intervention and risk-reduction; as they affect youth, individuals, couples and families are central themes in AMASSI programs. AMASSI's speakers bureau–known as the AMASSI Posse–conducts presentations to community groups, organizations and schools.

According to Cleo Manago, AMASSI's founder and Executive Director, "We pride ourselves in that we clearly acknowledge and affirm the diversity in lifestyles, sexuality, experiences and expressions in the community. For too long now we have marginalized sectors of our community because of sexuality or social differences. Yet the whole community suffers from this divisiveness. We invite and acknowledge our diverse community. This approach is timely and important if we are to effectively serve people facing crisis situations, struggling or concerned about HIV. We all deserve good health, empowerment, love and support. This creates a healthier community.

"Mindful of the community's legitimate concern about stigmatization, we have purposely designed AMASSI as a community center that does AIDS work, and not an AIDS Center. AIDS is just one of the issues threatening our quality of life.

"We are proud of the relatively quick and energetic response to AMASSI Inglewood. We already have youth enthusiastically requesting to be a part of the AMASSI Posse."

AMASSI, which is funded by the city of Inglewood and private contributions, is located in Inglewood's Civic Center at 101 North La Brea Avenue, Suite 608, between Florence and Manchester. For further information call 310.419.1969 or Fax 310.419.1960.

NBC SEEK GAY, LESBIAN PRESENCE FOR NEW PRIME-TIME DOCUMENTARY

Hollywood, California – Think you oughta be in pictures? Well so do NBC and Bunim-Murray Productions. The award-winning production team of MTV's The Real World (which previously featured seropositive teen AIDS activist Pedro Zamora before he passed) and the upcoming Road Rules, is seeking to add a gay or lesbian presence to a new documentary in the works about real-life high school reunion stories. "We'd love to include the story of a lesbian or gay person," says Jon Murray, one half of the producing duo, "who either came out to their friends during high school or who has since come out, but not reconnected with their high school friends to tell them. Revealing a sexual orientation can be a powerful and educational experience whenever it occurs."

You may either phone in your story idea at 213.965.8796, FAX to 213.965.0932 or e-mail at reunion@primenet.com.

SBC CALLS FOR AFRICENTRIC HOMOSEXUAL WRITINGS AND PHOTOS FOR UPCOMING ANTHOLOGY

Los Angeles, California–SBC magazine is looking for high quality Africentric homosexual fiction and photographic artwork for a new anthology to be published in the Spring of 1997.

Brother-to-Brother romances, coming-out tales, strong character pieces and unique narratives written in a literary style are being sought. High quality poetry, art-quality black & white photos and cutting edge illustrations are also being sought.

Submissions should be neatly typed and double-spaced and include your name, address and telephone number. Submissions should be made to:

SBC Anthology
1155 4th Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90019

All materials must be post marked no later than September 1, 1996. To have your material returned you must include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

SEVENTH ANNUAL BAYARD RUSTIN BREAKFAST SLATED FOR APRIL 20TH

Boston, Massachusetts–The AIDS Action Committee and The Bayard Rustin Planning Committee will present it's Seventh Annual Bayard Rustin Breakfast on Saturday, April 20, 1996 from 11:30 AM until 2 PM at the Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries Reception Hall located at 1010 Harrison Avenue, Roxbury, Massachusetts. This event, named after the noted African American homosexual who was a co-architect of the Civil Rights Movement, attracts over 400 homosexual and bisexual men and women and transgender persons of color each year.

The roster of previous speakers have included the late filmmaker Marlon Riggs, the late novelist Steven Corbin and choreographer Bill T. Jones. It is in the tradition of this planning committee to present the Greater Boston area with nationally recognized lesbian and gay persons of color who are making great strides in their work and lives.

One speaker this year will be Bartholomew T. Casimir who helped write the Denver Principles during the 4th Annual Gay and Lesbian Health Conference in 1983. He is also the current Chair, Board of Directors of the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA). Mr. Casimir has been living with AIDS since 1983.

Candace Boyce is the second speaker and is the founder of African-American Women in Unity (formerly Salsa Soul Sisters).

The theme for the breakfast is "Reclaiming The Vision of Our Forbearers: Continuing The Spiritual Journey".

The chairpeople of this annual event are Ms. Mia Anderson, Artistic Director of the local Drag Kings, Sluts and Goddesses, and poet Philip Robinson whose work appeared in In The Life: A Black Gay Anthology, The Road Before Us: 100 Gay Black Poets and Secret Passages, A trilogy of Thought.

This year's breakfast is being sponsored by AIDS Action Committee and co-sponsored by the Multicultural AIDS Coalition (MAC), The Latino Health Institute and Men of Color Against AIDS (MOCAA). The entire event is free. For more information contact Belynda Dunn at 617.450.1287.

STUDY FINDS HIV IN 7% OF YOUNG GAY MEN

Baltimore, Maryland – AIDS is spreading fast among males in their teens and early 20s who have homosexual encounters, even though they grew up amid widespread awareness of ways to avoid the lethal virus, a recent study found. Preliminary results from the first national survey of young homosexual and bisexual men–presented at a meeting here in Baltimore of the American Association for the Advancement of Science–show that 7% are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

"HIV prevalence is very high among young men who have sex with men...," said Dr. Linda Valleroy of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

UNITED AIRLINES' GAY & LESBIAN EMPLOYEES UNITE FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

Los Angeles, California–Gay and Lesbian employees of United Airlines have joined forces to create a new employee group called United At United.

A grass-roots organization, United At United was originally formed by a group of employees at the Los Angeles reservations center, with assistance from the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center.

Recently, United Airlines has been making initial attempts to tap into the highly lucrative gay travel market. In response to this marketing endeavor, numerous inquiries by employees, as well as the changing work environment, United At United has grown to be a system-wide (worldwide) organization.

"It is entirely appropriate that the world's largest employee-owned company strive to meet the needs of its diverse employees," states founder David Tomb. "Diversity is something we as an airline have been professing for a long time now. Isn't it time we privately practice what we publicly preach?"

In an effort to meet the changing needs of the travelling public, United Airlines has made some significant policy changes. In 1995, the emergency travel waiver was changed to include "lifetime domestic partners." While this was a notable change, that policy only applies to the public, there are no policies in place acknowledging employees' "lifetime domestic partners."

Publicly, United Airlines will be sponsoring "the Quilt" in Washington D.C. Ironically, last month a United employee in the same city lost his partner to AIDS. Even though both individuals were employees of United Airlines, the surviving employee was forced to take personal unpaid leave during his time of grief; any other employee would be given three days paid leave if the same occurred to an "immediate family member."

"United Airlines has made some bold, positive policy changes that we are very excited about," Tomb continued. "Now we want to encourage our company to continue in that direction, demonstrating consistency in attitude toward both our 'internal and external customer.' "

Some of the goals of United At United include: acknowledgement of the contributions lesbian and gay employees have made to United Airlines' success; domestic partner benefits (including health, travel, family leave, and pension benefits); specified diversity/sensitivity training; AIDS awareness and education; official policy regarding HIV-infected employees; monitoring allegations of harassment based on sexual orientation; and specific recommendations for charitable contributions.

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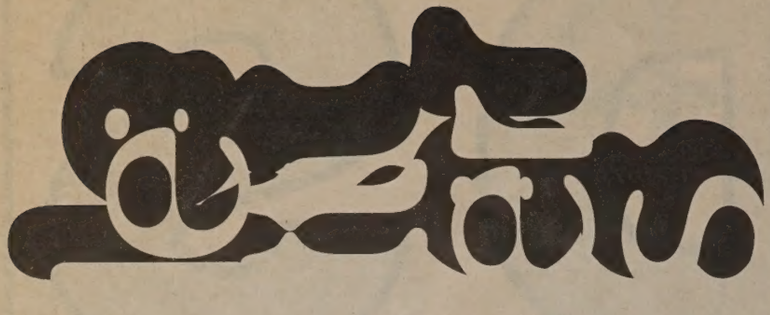

BROTHERS IN LOVE

I write this letter to commend you on your most recent issue that featured long term/monogamous relationships between African-American Gay Men ("Love and Happiness" Vol. 5 Issue 2).

When I first picked up the issue and started browsing through, I thought to myself "It's about time." It's time for the African-American Gay Man to focus on commitment instead of quick fulfillment! Most often, we as men place most of our emphasis on the physical and not what's on the inside...the heart. We need more positive examples as seen in your last issue. Thank you, Stanley, for showing the "Gay Community" that relationships between African-American Men can work!

MICHAEL MORGAN JONES
Los Angeles, California

Thank you very much for the inspiring stories about "Brothers In Love". I only wish they were longer and more in depth. It's a pleasure to read about other black men who appear to know just what it takes to keep their relationships strong and thriving. Although I am not in a relationship myself, just reading about those couples sure did make me feel good! They have to be a great bunch of guys!

I also enjoyed Arthur Johnson's "Just Being Guys Together". Wow! That's nice!

[And] On the flip side of your cover page is a bit of advertisement by The Hollywood Spa. That photo of those 2 guys kissing is HOT! What a way to get a body going!

BEN
West Hills, California

MIXED BUT NO LONGER MIXED UP

SBC is the first magazine that I've ever read that has been aimed at the African-American gay male. I found it to be informative, interesting and at times riveting reading.

I recently learned that I am, in part, a person of color. It was hidden from me all my life and [now] I hungrily claim my Hispanic heritage. I also voraciously read anything I can about all gay people of color. I want to learn more about our feelings, outlooks, etc. I've really been deprived. Yes, I've always found African-American people, in general, to be attractive. I also find that people of color are a deep thinking, caring and compassionate people. Also, I'm a bilingual teacher who serves primarily students of color.

And yes, I emphatically state that the gay white population in Phoenix does discriminate against the Black gay male. I can't believe the injustice and stupidity of it!

Once again, thanks.

MICHAEL WOOLF
Phoenix, Arizona

We gladly welcome your comments and letter. When writing or faxing please include your telephone number which will not be printed, but is needed for verification only. It is not the policy of SBC to print unverifiable, unsigned or anonymous letters. Some letters may be edited for the purpose of space and/or clarity. Mail your letters to The Editor/ SBC magazine/ 1155 4th Avenue/ Los Angeles, California 90019. Or Fax your letter to 213.733.9200.

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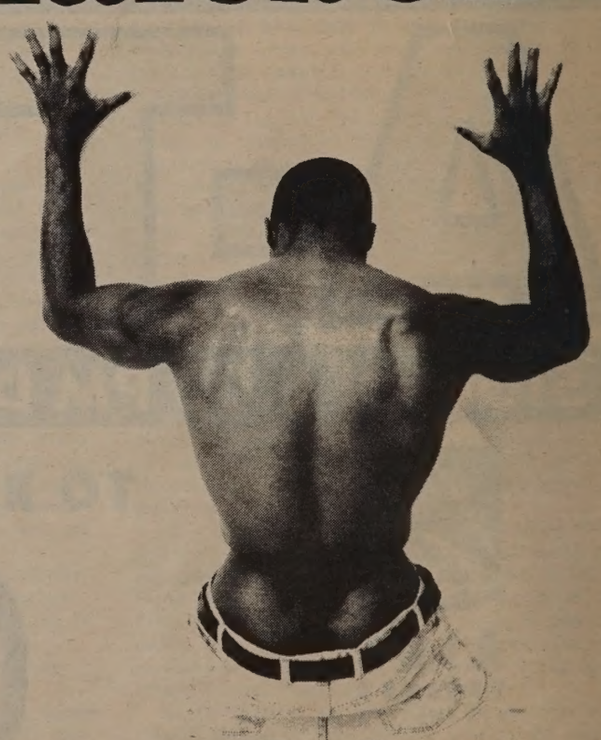

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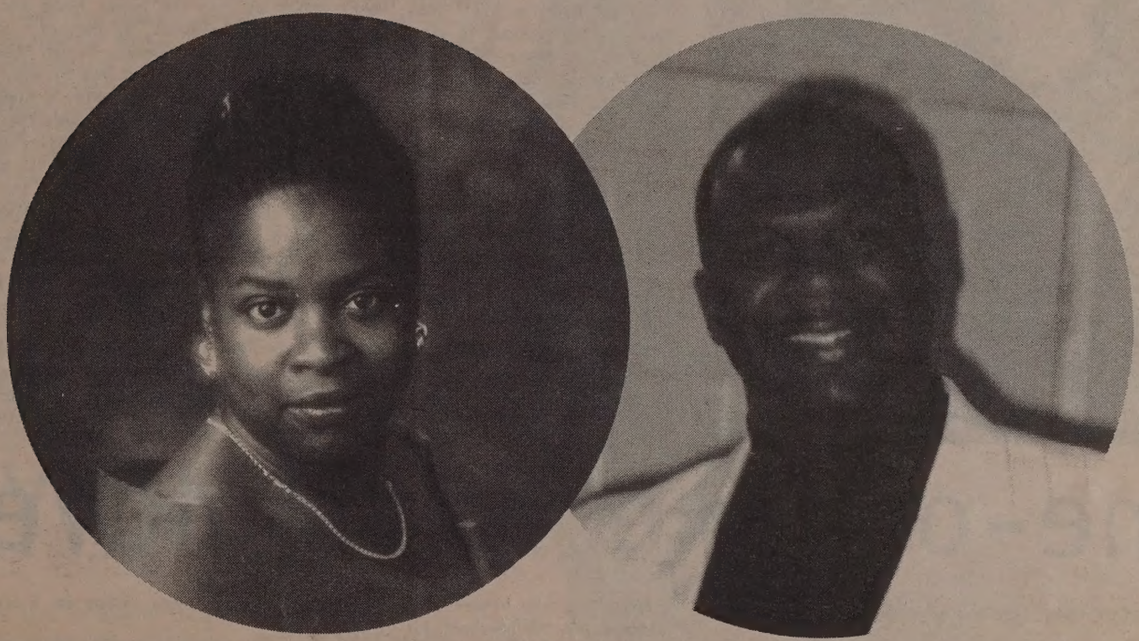

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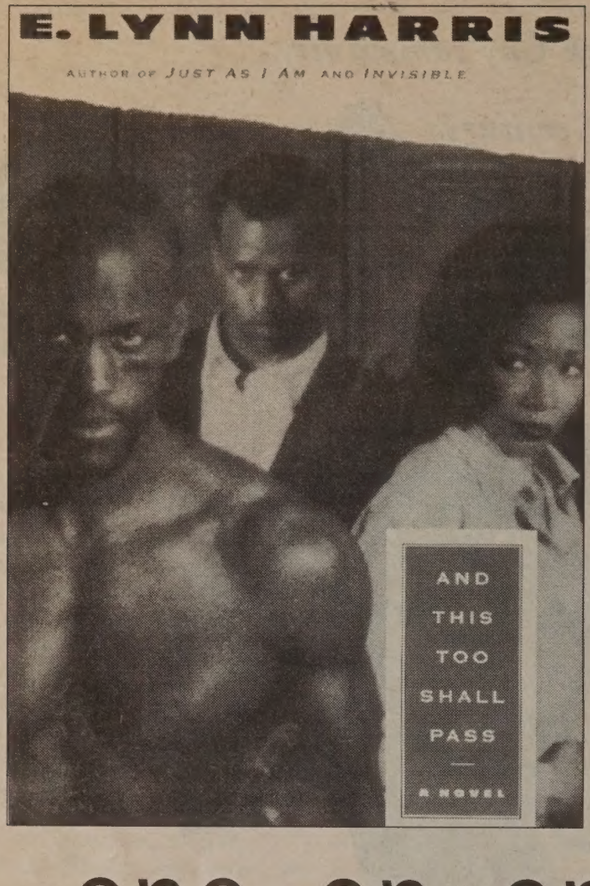


one-on-one with novelist

an interview by STANLEY BENNETT CLAY

photos by RON SINGLETON

It was the middle of February. Black History month was making it's presence bodaciously known with record-breaking snowstorms in the East, chilling rainfalls on the desserts of Southern California and a freak winter heat draught throughout the Lone Star State. Although it was 84 degrees in Dallas, the air was clear and clean.

The weather and the city reminded me of what I had not only heard, but deduced on my own [through his writing and our phone conversations] about bestselling novelist E. Lynn Harris. The author of Invisible Life, Just As I Am and the recently released And This Too Shall Pass was a brother of great warmth who spoke honestly and clearly, whose prose are simple and clean and whose stories are sweet old fashion bedtime tales for black homosexuals in search of fantasy, Mr. Right and themselves.

According to everyone I spoke to who knew or had met E. Lynn Harris, he was truly one of the last of the nice guys. And with more than 300,000 book sales to date, multiple Hollywood offers and a cash flow that puts him in the upper one percentile, it's nice to know that nice guys can finish first.

In And This Too Shall Pass, Harris takes us into the locker rooms and newsrooms of Chicago, where four lives are about to intersect in romance and scandal. At the heart of the novel is the black and beautiful celibate rookie quarterback for the Chicago Cougars, Zurich Thurgood Robinson, whose trajectory for superstardom is interrupted by a sexual assault charge by Mia, a sportscaster with her own sights on fame. With his career in jeopardy, Zurich hires Tamela, a high-powered attorney, to defend him, while Sean, a talented, but moody homosexual sportswriter, covers the story and uncovers his heart.

Although Harris' narration is sometimes over-simplified, over-polite and [as the old folks used to say] as 'color-struck' as ever, the characters are, for the most part, good and decent African Americans who may not stand up in the boat but are generous and good to the world around them, and generous and good to the family and friends that support them, if not always generous and good to the feelings that invade their good and generous souls, that is, until the last pages, when these rich and gorgeous and black and beautiful hetero-homo-bisexual young black men and women finally exhale and hopefully, if not always happily, surrender to love. (But wait a second. I'm getting ahead of myself. Our Arts & Entertainment Editor, Gregory Eugene Travis, will give us his review in next months issue.)

Born in Flint, Michigan 39 years ago but reared in Little Rock, Arkansas, E. Lynn Harris came to Atlanta in 1991 where he lives part time. He spends the rest of his time in New York city.

His Horatio Algier rise in the crap-shoot world of publishing has been well documented–the computer salesman of 13 years quits his job to write a book that every publisher turns down. He decides to publish the book himself, hawking it at community beauty salons and black-owned book stores where the Sisters and the Brothers eat it up.

Anchor Books gets a whiff, picks up the book and re-issues it in trade paperback. The book, Invisible Life, spends eight months at #1 on the Blackboard Bestseller List and another year on the charts. Essence magazine names it one of the year's 10 best.

The sequel, Just As I Am, follows, making Harris the hottest selling black male writer since James Baldwin.

Publishing giant Doubleday comes knocking with a wheel-barrel full of money. Hollywood comes calling with promises of the moon.

His third book, And This Too Shall Pass, once again captures America's ambisexual imagination while Harris' recently completed memoir For Colored Boys Who've Considered Suicide When Being Gay Was Too Tough waits in the wings until its 1997 release.

Lynn and I had spoken many times on the phone over the years. This would be the first time that we would meet face to face.

We met in the restaurant of his hotel, The Crescent Court, a lavishly appointed palace of old world Southern charm in Dallas.

He was in town as part of his book tour.

The setting seemed apropos. There is an old world Southern charm about E. Lynn Harris, making for a delightful breakfast meeting with a delightfully sunny gentleman.

STANLEY BENNETT CLAY: THERE'S A ROMANTIC FANTASY QUALITY ABOUT YOUR WORK, LYNN–OFTEN DESCRIBING, FOR AN EXAMPLE, SEXUAL SCENES IN A RATHER GENTEEL WAY–THAT IS NOT OFTEN FOUND IN A LOT OF BLACK GAY WRITING. IS THAT A CALCULATED DIRECTION OR IS IT JUST YOUR NATURE.

E.LYNN HARRIS: It's more my nature. I'm a Southern boy. I believe in leaving something to the imagination. People say that it's subtle. I didn't deliberately set out to write a certain way, it just sort of happens. When I write, I write what would be romantic to me, what would I like. And a lot of times the romance is part of the not knowing.

> “We don't have a lot of role models as black gay men. We tend to buy into the sleazy side rather than the romantic aspects of making love and being with someone which is one of the things that always disappointed me about “the life.” Everything's always based on sex rather than romance.

PHOTO ©ALLFORD/TROTMAN >

I'm really an underwear person, the mystery. I'm of the age now that I've learned from my mistakes. I like talking to my romantic partner and finding out what's important to him instead of coming in with a whole lot of preconceived notions.

You see, we don't have a lot of role models as black gay men. We tend to buy into the sleazy side rather than the romantic aspects of making love and being with someone which is one of the things that always disappointed me about 'the life'. Everything's always based on sex rather than romance.

Already I'm thinking about romantic scenes for my next book. A lot of this I haven't had the good fortune to live out as yet, but while I'm writing the scenes I'm living them.

HAVE YOU STARTED ON YOUR NEXT PIECE OF FICTION AS YET AND WILL IT BE PART III OF THE TRILOGY THAT BEGAN WITH INVISIBLE LIFE AND JUST AS I AM?

Maybe. But I do have this other story jumping around in my head. And it may come first. One of the things that I would like to do in the trilogy is show [the character of] Raymond in a long-term relationship with a man, showing the day-to-day, and showing a parallel to the straight couple that they're friends with, to show how different and similar relationships can be.

One of the things that we do as gay men is base our relationships on heterosexual models, but that doesn't always work, so in my mind, I'm trying to see what I think would be a perfect relationship for two black men loving each other—What could be the downfalls, what could be the joys—so that people reading it might say, 'yeah, let's try that.'

Recently, I met someone, and we're going very slow, and it's turning out to be really wonderful. I mean, I'm already in love with this guy and we haven't slept together. It's just the most wonderful thing I've ever experienced. And we've talked about it, what it's going to be like [when we do sleep together]. We know that the chemistry is there. When he walks in the room I'm automatically excited, and this is the best feeling that I've ever experienced in this situation. And it has grown out of us taking our time. I wanted to make sure that he wanted Lynn, not E. Lynn.

One of the things that we've been doing is bringing faith and prayer into our relationship. I was telling a friend about it, and he asked, 'you pray for your relationship?' And I said 'yeah, we get on our knees and pray for our relationship.' And he was boggled by that because he thought that it was anti-Christ or something. Now this is a guy who is gay and a Christian. You have to be specific with God about what you want. In a lot of ways, the person that I'm with is what I asked for. I'm just keeping my fingers crossed.

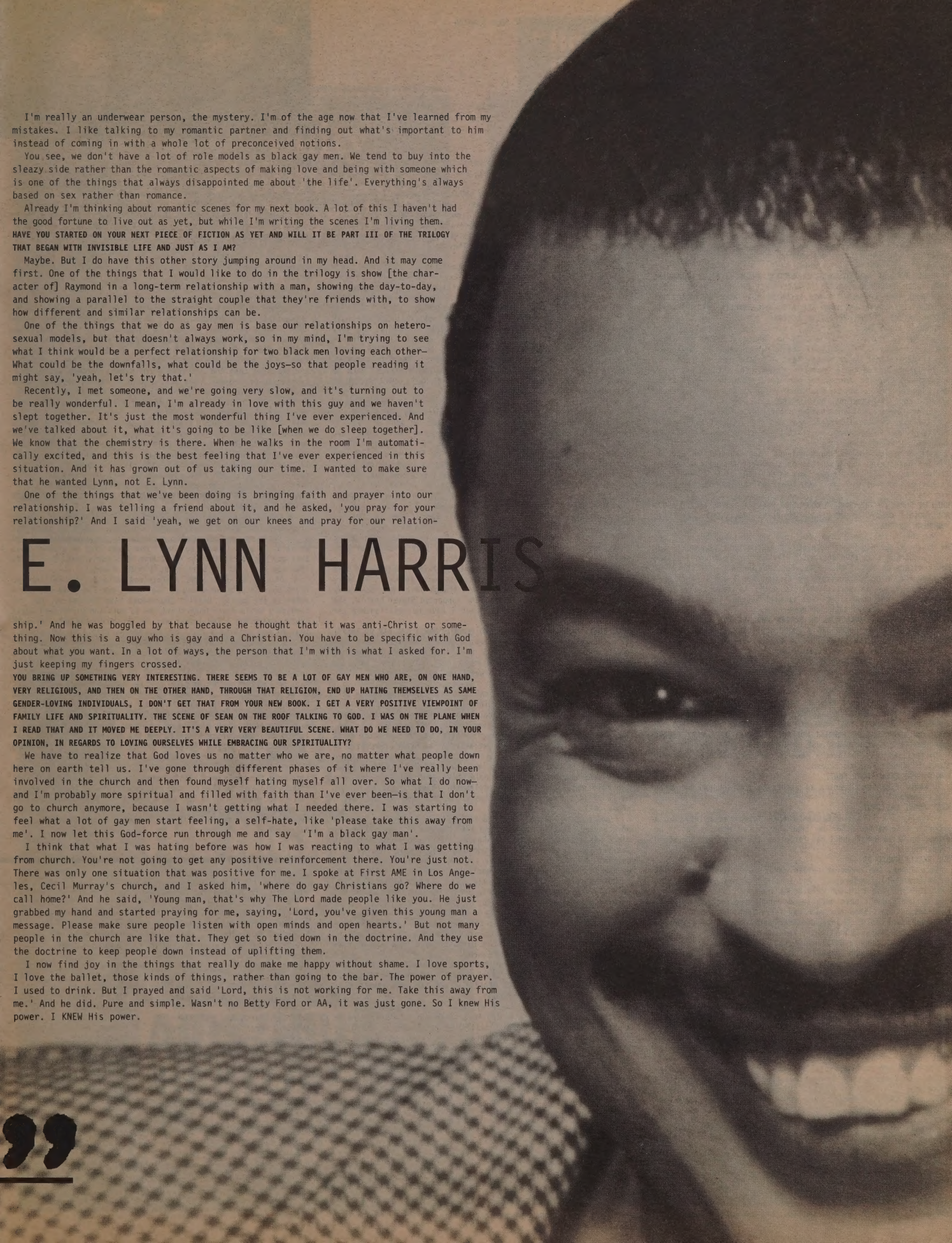
E. LYNN HARRIS

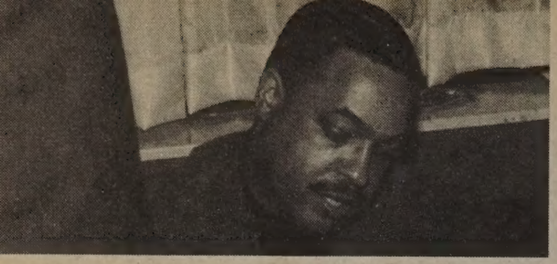
YOU BRING UP SOMETHING VERY INTERESTING. THERE SEEMS TO BE A LOT OF GAY MEN WHO ARE, ON ONE HAND, VERY RELIGIOUS, AND THEN ON THE OTHER HAND, THROUGH THAT RELIGION, END UP HATING THEMSELVES AS SAME GENDER-LOVING INDIVIDUALS, I DON'T GET THAT FROM YOUR NEW BOOK. I GET A VERY POSITIVE VIEWPOINT OF FAMILY LIFE AND SPIRITUALITY. THE SCENE OF SEAN ON THE ROOF TALKING TO GOD. I WAS ON THE PLANE WHEN I READ THAT AND IT MOVED ME DEEPLY. IT'S A VERY VERY BEAUTIFUL SCENE. WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO, IN YOUR OPINION, IN REGARDS TO LOVING OURSELVES WHILE EMBRACING OUR SPIRITUALITY?

We have to realize that God loves us no matter who we are, no matter what people down here on earth tell us. I've gone through different phases of it where I've really been involved in the church and then found myself hating myself all over. So what I do now—and I'm probably more spiritual and filled with faith than I've ever been—is that I don't go to church anymore, because I wasn't getting what I needed there. I was starting to feel what a lot of gay men start feeling, a self-hate, like 'please take this away from me'. I now let this God-force run through me and say 'I'm a black gay man'.

I think that what I was hating before was how I was reacting to what I was getting from church. You're not going to get any positive reinforcement there. You're just not. There was only one situation that was positive for me. I spoke at First AME in Los Angeles, Cecil Murray's church, and I asked him, 'where do gay Christians go? Where do we call home?' And he said, 'Young man, that's why The Lord made people like you. He just grabbed my hand and started praying for me, saying, 'Lord, you've given this young man a message. Please make sure people listen with open minds and open hearts.' But not many people in the church are like that. They get so tied down in the doctrine. And they use the doctrine to keep people down instead of uplifting them.

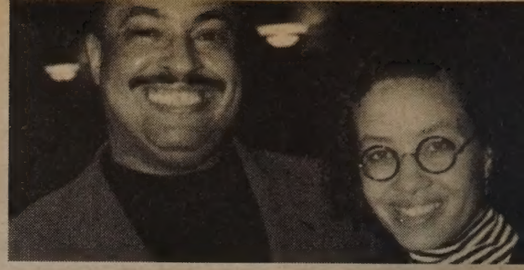
I now find joy in the things that really do make me happy without shame. I love sports, I love the ballet, those kinds of things, rather than going to the bar. The power of prayer. I used to drink. But I prayed and said 'Lord, this is not working for me. Take this away from me.' And he did. Pure and simple. Wasn't no Betty Ford or AA, it was just gone. So I knew His power. I KNEW His power.





< E. LYNN HARRIS AT A RECENT BOOK SIGNING

WITH ESSENCE EDITOR, LINDA VILLAROSA >



THE CHARACTERS YOU'VE CREATED IN YOUR BOOKS ARE VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE TYPE OF CHARACTERS THAT POPULATE THE WORKS OF, SAY, JAMES EARL HARDY, STEVEN CORBIN, ETC. THERE'S A WHOLE WORLD THAT IS SPECIFICALLY THE DOMAIN OF E. LYNN HARRIS. HOW DO YOU DESCRIBE THAT WORLD?

A little bit of everybody. My characters are like many of the black gay men out there who don't fit the stereotype perpetuated by the media. Many of them have been afraid to be who they are. A lot of these kinds of individuals that I spent time with in the seventies and the eighties got married to women, but continued to do their [gay] thing on the side.

ALTHOUGH YOUR GAY AND BISEXUAL CHARACTERS ARE CONSTANTLY GRAPPLING WITH THEIR NATURE AND SOCIETY'S ACCEPTANCE OF THEIR NATURE, WITH EACH BOOK YOUR CHARACTER'S ARE BECOMING MORE AND MORE ACCEPTING OF THEMSELVES. WILL WE SOON SEE A MAIN CHARACTER USE HIS HOMOSEXUAL NATURE TO FUEL POLITICAL ACTION?

I don't know. That's not really a part of me. People have tried to get me in the political end of it, but that's not something that interests me. What you will see in future books is that homosexuality will not be an issue. Say, with Raymond and Trent now, 3 or 4 years into a really positive relationship, their being gay won't be an issue to them or the people they come in contact with. What I will try to do is show them inter-acting with different kinds of people—straight, gay.

But you bring up an interesting point. Maybe they will befriend an activist, because I have friends who are activist and we have really great relationships, but that's not who I am and it doesn't take away from who they are.

With Sean [ed. note: the homosexual sportswriter in Harris' book] I was trying to start that progression. I didn't want Sean living that tragic "Oh I'm gay, woe is me" kind of life. What Sean is having problems with is commitment and the church. Those are his issues.

WHEN WE SPOKE ON THE PHONE A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, YOU TALKED ABOUT HOLLYWOOD'S COURTSHIP AND HOLLYWOOD BEING 'HOLLYWOOD'. WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THAT?

Oh, they were like, 'Love you, love the writing, but what can we do about these gay characters?' The homophobia is unreal, but it's something that I've decided I will not sell out on. I've had movie offers on all of the books, but they weren't with the right people. They didn't understand my vision. And I don't want something ending up on screen that is going to cause more furor because it's not done right. But it will happen. The movies will happen, but it always takes us more time.

TO PUT BLACK GAY CHARACTERS ON SCREEN WHO ARE NOT STEREOTYPICAL SWISHING, SCREAMING QUEENS IS A WHOLE NEW THING. I HATED THE GAY HAIRDRESSER CHARACTER IN WAITING TO EXHALE. IT WAS LIKE, 'WHY?'

The hairdresser and the bisexual man.

EXACTLY. [ACTOR] GIANCARLO ESPOSITO, WHO I'VE SEEN OVER THE YEARS IN SO MANY THINGS—HIS TAKE ON THE BISEXUAL CHARACTER WAS VERY STRANGE.

Didn't he seem unhappy?

THAT'S IT. NOW, I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S [DIRECTOR] FORREST WHITAKER'S LACK OF KNOWLEDGE REGARDING THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE BLACK HOMOSEXUAL COMMUNITY THAT MADE HIM RESORT TO SUCH STEREOTYPES, OR WHAT. MY KNOWLEDGE OF FORREST WHITAKER IS THAT OF A VERY GIFTED AND SENSITIVE MAN, PERHAPS JUST UNINFORMED.

In fact, Forrest Whitaker's name is one that has been bantered about to direct Pass on screen.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT?

I would like the director to either be a black gay man or a black woman.

WHAT ABOUT CASTING?

Actually I'd like to see new people doing the roles, but a reporter told me the other day that the role of MamaCee has to be played by Della Reese and I had forgotten all about her. She would be perfect!

SHE REALLY WOULD BE.

It's funny. One producer called me up and asked 'What do you think about Blair Underwood?' And I said 'for what?' And he said 'for Zurich'. And I thought, 'I don't know.'

I probably won't have much to say about the casting unless I hold out. I don't know how much say Terry [McMillan] had. I know she had some input. I love Jennifer Lewis and I love Vanessa Williams, both Vanessa Williams'. Vanessa Williams would be a good Mia, the other Vanessa Williams would be a good Tamela.

I THINK THAT YOUR BOOK AND THIS TOO SHALL PASS AS A FILM COULD HAVE THE SAME SUCCESS AS WAITING TO EXHALE AS A FILM HAS HAD. I FOUND THAT YOUR CHARACTER'S MOVE VARY COMFORTABLY IN THE BLACK HOMOSEXUAL COMMUNITY THAT EXIST WITHIN THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEELING THE NEED TO ESCAPE TO THE WHITE GAY COMMUNITY.

It's funny. The other day I was in a book store and this couple approaches me, a black guy and a white guy, and the white guy asked, 'when are you going to do an interracial story?' And I said, 'I don't think I will be doing that because it is not my experience. And besides, there are enough writers out there doing that.'

You might see an interracial situation as a fringe thing, like in this book there is a fringe character that's involved with a white guy.

You see, there are those conservative black gays that are so deep in the closet, out there doing harm to not only the black gay community but to the black community as a whole. So I put that character with a white guy. I didn't want him to be with a brother.

WHO ARE YOUR LITERARY HEROES?

Baldwin of course. I love Alice Walker, Tina Ansa, Bebe Moore Campbell, Richard Wright. I love Randall Kenan. I think he's a beautiful writer, but he doesn't get any recognition.

I'M AWARE OF HIM BUT I'VE NEVER READ ANY OF HIS WORK.

You should pick up Let The Dead Bury Their Dead. His stories are incredible. This guy is a wonderful writer.

YOU HAVE A VERY POP STYLE OF WRITING. WHO INFLUENCED YOUR STYLE?

None of the people that I've mentioned because to me they are such beautifully eloquent and elegant writers. But I write commercial fiction. I tell a story like you and I were sitting down and saying 'Stan, let me tell you about these people I know.' And I want to here your questions, 'well, why did he do this and why did he do that?' And I think that's what makes it so popular.

In terms of Baldwin and Toni Morrison and all those writer's whose literature is pure poetry, I think my publishing house would have a problem with me doing that. They don't want me to go deep on them. One guy said about my work, 'I read it, I get it, I move on.' Terry is doing that with great success.

As a black man I found Waiting To Exhale hard to get through. In fact, it's only one of a couple of books that I've read and did not complete. Even if I start reading a bad book, I usually feel obligated to read it to the last page.

Well, you know, Stan, what I didn't realize about the book when I was reading it until I saw the movie is that it's a very character-driven thing, there's no plot.

YOU EARLIER MENTIONED TINA MCELROY ANSA, AUTHOR OF BABY OF THE FAMILY AND UGLY WAYS. I REMEMBER PICKING UP HER BABY OF THE FAMILY IN NEW YORK TO HAVE SOMETHING TO READ ON MY FLIGHT BACK TO L.A., AND I WAS COMPLETELY ENCHANTED BY THE SWEET POP-LYRICISM OF HER WRITING. I BECAME AN INSTANT FAN.

Tina has been my most loyal, devoted supporter. We met at a writer's conference and I couldn't believe I was meeting her. I was a big fan of hers. The last time I was on tour she was my mentor. She told me what to expect. She told me to call her anytime. For long periods we'd talk everyday. She is always telling me what to look out for, she would send me flowers when my tour started. She and her husband did some acts of kindness that just brought me to tears. Like when my books first came out, people didn't realize that I was still a struggling writer. Well, Tina and her husband sent me a check for $10,000 to go write without pressure. And I told her I didn't know when I would be able to pay her back, and she said, 'Don't.' She said, 'When you get it, give it to someone else who might need it.' And as a result I was able to help out others and pass it on. I never would have learned that lesson had it not been for her. She's just a wonderful person aside from being a beautiful writer.

Those kinds of people have come into my life. People would have thought naturally I would have been closer with someone like Terry McMillan. I barely know Terry, even though Terry has been very supportive of black gay writers. She supported Steven Corbin, she supported Randall Kenan. But she and I have no relationship per se.

YOUR BOOKS HAVE MADE YOU RICH AND FAMOUS. HOW'S THE AIR UP THERE?

It's interesting what people expect of me. I've always been like really really friendly, but now I don't know what people expect of me. But the thing I'm concentrating on now is remaining sane and remaining Lynn. I don't want to get caught up in this whole thing called 'celebrity'.

It says something about how the world is, how needy people are, that we put celebrity on a pedestal, instead of realizing that this is simply what I do for a living. Actors act for a living, people who get up every morning to deliver the mail do that for a living. They are doing their job. One day, I want to tackle that whole hero-worshipping celebrity thing, especially in the black community.

I know that part of it is our need to have something to aspire to. Part of it comes from that. 'Hey, he did it, I can do it too.' Now I understand the need for role models and I try to separate the role model part from the celebrity thing. I answer all my mail. If it's something that touches me, I'll get up and make a phone call.

I got a lot of letters from 18 to 20 year old black gay men who were saying 'Thank God!'. I found out that the 16 year old boy my niece was dating was gay, and when my niece recognized that, she was very supportive of him. I asked my mom, I said 'Who is this person?' And she told me that he lived with his mother. So I told my mom to promise me that she would call this young man's mother to make sure that she talks to him about sex and protecting himself. Take him down to the clinic, or if he wants to talk to me, promise me that this will happen.

I see so many young men dying of AIDS because we don't want to talk to our male children about sex, heterosexual sex, so we certainly don't talk to them about protection in a gay environment, and part of that is because the parents don't know how to talk about it. It's not their experience.

DON'T YOU THINK THAT A LOT OF THAT HAS TO DO WITH THE FACT THAT THE TRIBE, AS IT EXIST NOW, STILL DOES NOT ACKNOWLEDGE HOMOSEXUALITY AS A BLACK COMMUNITY REALITY. THEY SEE HOMOSEXUALITY AS SOMETHING IN THE WHITE COMMUNITY.

Oh yes. It's understandable why they say that. Black gay men have been made invisible for so long. Even today, where there is a greater acceptance, there is still that percentage in the background that want to keep our existence nonexistent. No matter how widespread my reputation becomes, there are examples of this kind of keeping me and us invisible in our community. There was a situation with a popular radio station in Atlanta who would never have me on. And someone who was gay came and told me that they were never going to have me on. That it was brought up in meetings.

And then you have the other situation. When I was growing up and going to an all-white high school, the kids would come up to me and say, 'Oh Lynn, you're not like the rest of them.' But that was because they didn't take the time to get to know any other blacks students. And now I find as an openly gay black man that black straight buppies are saying the same thing: 'You're not like the rest of them.' Half of them have either never met or have taken the time to get to know another gay person, and it's kind of this patronizing thing that I will not become a part of. I won't go to these big New York parties and be the token gay—'Oh let's invite E. Lynn, let's be real liberal'—I won't be a part of that shit, that's not what I'm here for.

If I can change someone's mind, or at least get them to thin a certain way, then I'll do it. I'm speaking at Delta Sigma Bet Convention in New York. 600 black women.

What I've learned, Stanley, is that when I first came out wit Invisible Life I was hedging about who I was. I figured I coul write this book and skirt around who I was and what I was about And the reason I started talking about my life openly and hon estly as a black gay man was not because of any pressure, bu because of the letters I started to get from young black ga teenagers. And I knew right then that they needed me to tell th truth. They didn't need me to say 'Oh, my sexuality is not a issue, I'm a writer blah, blah, blah.' That's like me saying th color of my skin is not an issue.'

I remember as a kid seeing someone black who was doing some thing that made him proud, and it made me proud and made me thin about what I could do. So now, me being able to say, 'Yes, I a a proud black gay man, I am successful at what I am doing, I a telling the truth about who I am' just may help someone else no have to go through the shit I had to go through, the self-hate the thinking that the only way I could be a success was by pre tending to be someone I was not. I have a line in my memoir tha says 'I have become the person that I pretended to be.'

I was very successful as a computer salesman. I was firmly se in corporate America. White shirt, blue suit. I had a story fo anything that came up. I could change a male lover's name into female name, give him a female persona at the drop of a hat, an never have to think about what I said before, because I though that that's what people wanted. But since I started telling th truth—the truth about everything—life has been so much simpler, s much sweeter. You don't ever have to correct the truth, you don' ever have to keep track of it. You say what's so and move on.

WHAT CAN YOU SAY TO OUR BROTHERS WHO ARE STILL SO DEEPLY WALLE WITHIN THE CLOSET?

A lot of people come up to me at parties. A writer of a majo newspaper came up to me at a party and said, 'Is it as wonderfu as it seems to just be totally out?' I said 'it's wonderful.' An he said, 'I wish I could do that.' And I was kind of stunned tha this guy was saying this to me. I knew this guy's work. So I said 'But you can.' But he said, 'No, I could never.'

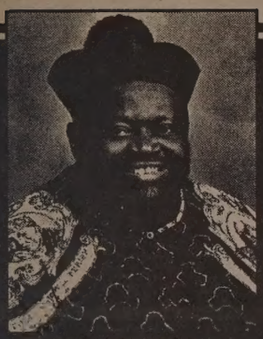
I got a letter from a pro athlete and he said, 'I'm telling yo right now that I'm not using my real name, but I'm [like the char acter in the books] 'Basil'. Your books have touched me, but the teenagers would never understand, my parents and girlfriend would never understand.' The letter was filled with such pain. He said that he was getting a P.O. box and hoping that I would respond. So I wrote him back and told him I understood, and if he ever felt like talking, I was here. So I get this phone call and he was using his alias, and I was asking him questions and he wouldn't answer them because he said that if he did I would know who he was. So I told him to then just tell me what he wanted me to know. So he told me about this entertainer who had approached him and how he just totally rejected him, but then the entertainer approached him again and this time he went along with it. And he asked the entertainer how did he know that about him that the athlete didn't know about himself. And the entertainer said to him: 'When we're out at the clubs and the malls and things, I watched where your eyes went. And your eyes went where my eyes went.'

The conversations with this athlete were really painful. He said that the books were really helpful to him, but he didn't know if he would ever be able to come out. I never heard from him again.

I think what I can do for the brothers out there is to continue to be a success, to try to live my life in truth so that they can say 'Well, Lynn is doing it, Stanley's doing it, maybe I can do it too.'

E. Lynn Harris is currently on a book-signing tour for his new book. His store appearance schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, March 13	Boston	Sistahs Bookstore
Thursday, March 14	Boston	Waterstones Books
Saturday, March 16	Philadelphia	Borders Books
Sunday, March 17	Philadelphia	Giovanni's Room
Monday, March 18	New York	A Different Light
Tuesday, March 19	Wash. DC	Lambda Rising
Wednesday, March 20	Baltimore	Bibelot Books
Thursday, March 21	Wash. DC	Vertigo Books
Friday, March 22	Miami	Afro-in Books & Things
Saturday, March 23	Miami	Borders Books
Saturday, March 23	Miami	Books & Books
Tuesday, March 26	Detroit	Borders Books
Wednesday, March 27	Detroit	Truth Bookstore
Thursday, March 28	Chicago	Waterstones
Friday, March 29	Chicago	Unabridged Books
Monday, April 1	St. Louis	Afro-Centric Expressions
Sunday, March 31	Chicago	Today's Black Woman Expo
Tuesday, April 2	Dallas	Black Book Worm
Wednesday, April 3	Dallas	Crossroads Market
Thursday, April 4	Dallas	Black Images
Friday, April 5	Austin	Folktales
Saturday, April 6	Houston	Nia Gallery
Monday, April 8	Houston	Crossroads Market
Tuesday, April 9	Wash. DC	Olsson's
Monday, April 22	Los Angeles	Esowan Books
Wednesday, April 23	Los Angeles	A Different Light
Wednesday, April 24	S.Francisco	Alexander Book Co.
Thursday, April 25	Berkeley	Black Oak Books
Friday, April 26	S.Francisco	Marcus Books
Saturday, April 27	Oakland	Marcus Books



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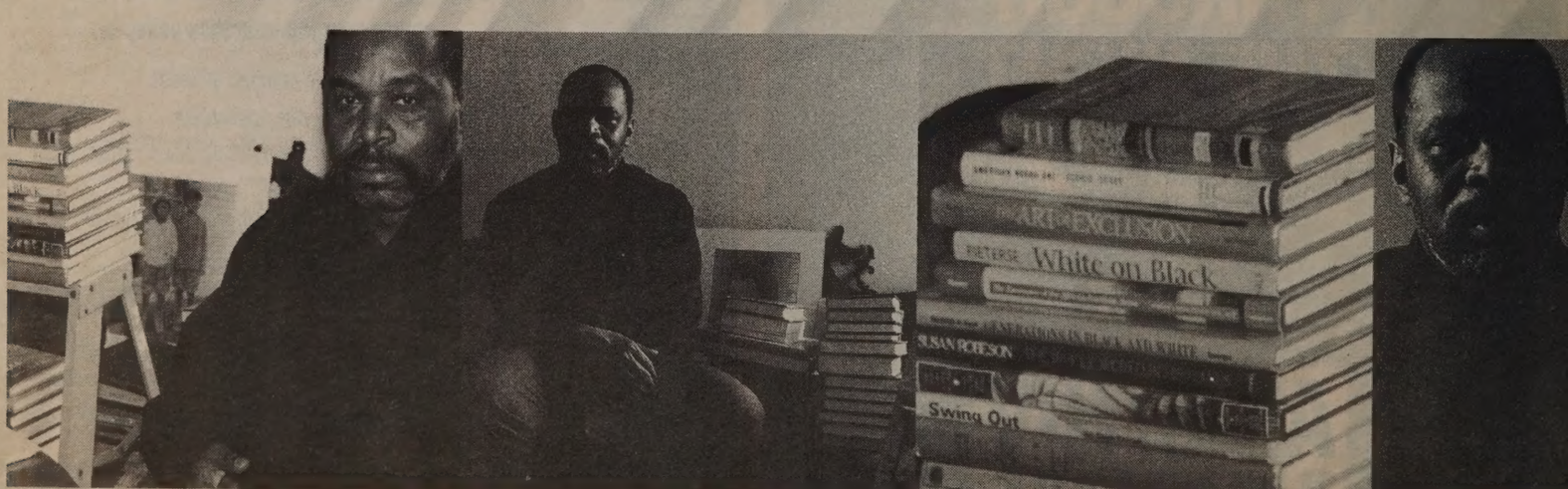
RARE BOOK COLLECTOR, HOWARD MARSHALL, PROVIDES

Food For Thought

I have two grandmothers – one still living – and I had always been told that whatever I did should be for the betterment of the race. That whatever you do should be good. That whatever you read should be healthy. I don't want to miss out on anything – or leave any gaps in my proud history behind.

Howard Marshall, collector of African American literature.



by GREGORY EUGENE TRAVIS arts & entertainment editor

photography by RON SINGLETON

When I visited Mr. Marshall, it was right after one of those rare LA rains. He had the teapot on, but far from lounging about, enjoying a good book, he'd been hard at work at the drafting table, working on new designs for an upcoming visual art series.

The workspace in his house is literally drenched in history, reminders, tales. They speak the greater writers' names like incantations, adorn every space like talisman. And their soothsayer, their apothecary, Howard Marshall, revels in their tattle, as would any doting parent. This wordy brood is the more special, though, for its lineage and subjects: all 100% African-American. The fiction, creative nonfiction, essay collections and the like conspire to tell our people's history specifically and solely from an Africentric point of view while pulling from and addressing the diaspora. The motivation behind this decidedly radical approach toward building a personal library becomes clearer though you see this book by (or about) a famous personality laying beside some piece of the Marshall family history. Suddenly the past and present walk side by side holding hands. The former no longer an enigma, the latter much less lonely. Suddenly what was magic, is now communion.

"Hearing my elementary school teachers read about such people as Langston, Marion Anderson and Paul Robeson and Roland Hayes and hearing their actual voices on albums was inspiring." Marshall recalls, "Then in junior high school, I started collecting vintage African-American literature. I would go to used bookstores in Hollywood and other parts of the city. Sometimes I didn't have enough money, so I would place them on hold and then go back the following pay period."

Marshall soon discovered that finding vintage books by Black authors was and still is a sometimes daunting task. Publishers rarely expect a lengthy sales or shelf life for books that aren't runaway hits.

"It's interesting with African American books, they only print so many copies and then they don't print anymore," he laments, before offering a glimmer of hope. "The [public] libraries get rid of a lot of books every so many years. Those books either go to the used bookstores or are sold to the public. Right now publishing houses are reprinting a lot of those books in paperback because people are now interested in Langston Hughes, W.E.B. DeBois, etc.

"At one time a lot of those books were hard to find. But books like the *Langston Hughes Reader*—I have one in first edition—have been reissued."

And while keeping our history alive via literature has been a challenge, he sees reason to celebrate, if cautiously. "There is a renewed interest in African American literature. A lot of people are no longer getting rid of their collections. They're holding on to them. Consequently, the books that are hardest to find don't appear in bookstores, but you will see them in someone's private collection."

The three to four hundred books comprising Howard Marshall's private collection are there to provide much more than comfort, entertainment or information. The way his face lights up when he opens or refers to a volume indicates just how inspirational and alive these friends are to him.

"A lot of people don't know Alice Dunbar Nelson who was married to Paul Lawrence Dunbar. She was also a lesbian. Okay? She kept a diary. She was also very active in the women's movement. A lot of people don't consider that a lot of these wives of famous men also had lives of their own."

Just as impressive as the poetry, fiction and essays in Marshall's collection are the stage plays that date back to the eighteenth century.

"I have collections such as this one, *Black Theater In The U.S.* featuring 45 plays by Black Americans. Or this book here, *The Roots of African American Drama: The Black Female.* I also have—not at this particular location, it's at my Mom's—the play on Malcolm X that James Baldwin wrote. I have the first edition on that."

He displaces two mountainous piles of books, fishing after just one. "This book right here, *The Land of Cotton and Other Plays* written by a Black writer, or *Mamba's Daughter*, a play by Dorothy and DeBois Hayward. It's the one Ethyl Waters was in..."

Basically this is a library of Black history, literature and stage plays which are no longer being performed on stage, as Mr. Marshall points out, "because nobody knows about them."

And that frustration borne from our lack of knowledge of our own literary heroes and heroines has fueled his fire for collecting these tomes for nearly two decades. Too, there is a more intimate reason, an incentive which is deeply personal.

"I started out collecting books for myself, but then my sister had a son. And I wanted my nephew—when he would go out among his friends or whatever— be knowledgeable of our people. Then, my brother had children and I also wanted to nurture them with this. I would also go to a bookstore and buy two or three books of the same title because I knew eventually that book would be out of print. So when there was a birthday or whatever holiday, I could give them books.

"And I would also let them know the value of the books. I would let them know the reason I have the plastic guard on this book is to protect this book. It is a first edition. One day this book might become valuable. It just wasn't for them to read the book and then discard it, but it would be something for them to also hold on to."

While his eldest nephew still borrows Marshall's books, he is confidant that the legacy of collecting important literature has been passed on, having seen early encouraging signs. "The younger ones of my brother's sons, I think they are developing their own libraries because their mother takes them to the city libraries. So they know what it's like to check out a book. And in their bedrooms, they have their bookshelves.

"But what I try to do is put more emphasis on us, on the African American side. And I still don't knock the other side, but I wanted them to have the knowledge of who we were and our contributions. So my collection has focused mainly on African Americans."

"Growing up in the AME Church, my hero was Richard Allen," Marshall notes, "Naming literary and artistic heroes today? There are very few," he laughs easily, going on to explain that, "the passion that the authors and artists had then is a little different from the passion today. It wasn't so much about the dollar then. It was about whatever the writer was putting on paper. He was still aware of the community.

"Back then the people also had a hands-on experience with the artists because these writers also lived in the community. It was a bond that was there. For example, when I heard about and went to the late [actress/activist] Frances Williams' memorial, it was very heavy hearing people like actress Beah Richards recount how she met Langston Hughes at Frances' house or how she and Maya Angelou shared house space at Frances'.

"There was a sense of these artists being in the community. People within the community knew these people personally. Today its a little different. So today I'd say that my heroes if I have any—would be Toni Morrison, Maya Angelou and Angela Goode. They harken back to—but they're outside of—that Harlem Renaissance period. But there's still a connection there. James Baldwin would have been the last of that period and they had a connection to him."

"I think we have a rich culture and history that we cannot allow individuals outside of the African American community to tell us that we haven't when we have books that document this in spite of the fact that some of these books may be painful.

"But not every author has had a negative experience in life. Howard Thurman passionately speaks about love and the inner self with God. It's not only Dr. Martin Luther King. But it was people such as Howard Thurman that were before King. And a lot of times our young people, even in our churches, don't talk about the Thurmans, etc. Some of them have probably never heard the actual voice of Mary McLeod Bethune."

Howard Marshall collects not only books, but record albums featuring the voices of African American icons reading from their own works or in interviews and debates. While many names of these early civil rights pioneers and entertainers appear in our history books and a few even in film, Marshall knows the power of listening to Ossie Davis and Mary McLeod Bethune or Adam Clayton Powell.

"I have Booker T. Washington on one recording," he says almost conspiratorially, "and its weird. You have someone narrating Washington's life but then you hear his actual voice saying, 'Cast down your bucket where you are...'

"I have Langston Hughes' anthology, Paul Robeson's "Othello." Some people do not particularly care for *Amos 'N Andy*, but I have the Black version of that on record—the TV version. I have Margaret Mead and James Baldwin talking.

"I have to share this!" Marshall says, lighting up suddenly, "I was teaching an art class when I was in my early 20's and had not read Baldwin's *Another Country* or *Giovanni's Room*. And I found them on record in a record store on Sunset Blvd. They used to have a spoken word section. And I was so excited that I'd found them and that I was going to take them to work and play it so the children could hear James Baldwin.

"But when I got home and started fixing dinner, something told me that I needed to listen to that album. And I was so glad I listened," he laughs, shaking his head at the narrowly averted disaster. "At the time I could not take it in for them to hear. But, now that's not on tape anymore," he notes with a hint of sadness, acknowledging the obvious irony that, now that times have changed, these wonderful recordings are no longer available.His finds may vary but Marshall's technique is simple: he treats his search like a treasure hunt. "One of the things I do when I travel is look in the Yellow Pages and see if I can find used book stores or consignment shops. There are times when I walk out because I know I can't afford certain pieces. I say, okay, I'll find it someplace else and then I go look for it.

"One of the things you have to do when you're collecting books is shop around. You may go to one dealer and he may have this book for $100 and its a first edition, then you may go to another place and another person may have it for five dollars! And it's still a first edition, its still in A1 condition. There are also a number of bookstores you can go to. And then, sometimes people go to yard sales."

The subjects of Howard Marshall's various collections are as varied as the people from which they come, ranging from the aforementioned stage plays and autobiographies to slave narratives, essays, books on the Blues, negro spirituals, photos and personal family memorabilia. This profound respect for the value of history is all the more evident when he gently unfolds the slightly yellowed but still hardy turn-of-the-century parchment commemorating his grandmother's graduation from high school. This sense of tradition, of retaining some direct connection with the past, bears directly on his mission as a collector.

"I honestly consider myself to be the family historian because I believe that one should never get rid of things. Some of the family photos I have tie in with the history of the period. I may not know the individuals in these books, but then I read that history and I tie it in with my grandparents or certain family members..." This, he says, gives him a sense of that period and its style and transports him back in time to them. Or, perhaps more importantly, brings them home to him.

"Because of the photos I don't get caught up into the misconception that every African American from that period was poor and deprived. The photos show me that many of those individuals possessed a sense of dignity and pride. When I read the narratives, I get a sense of that dignity and pride.

"For example," he points to one thick volume, "this is a very good book, *We Are Your Sisters*. It deals with the history of Black women and shows the strong sense of pride in what they were trying to accomplish. In there we hear about how Harriet Tubman came to one of the women's meetings and all of the women stood up. And Ida B. Wells had a baby—I think it was a first child—and they let Harriet Tubman hold this child. I felt, WOW! how powerful, even though it was written in a narrative form. You still had that connection.

"When I came up, I lived in an all African American community here in Los Angeles. But it was sad that when I started collecting my books, I had to go outside of the community, which is not true today.

"I think that [back then] some people would put a stigma on something old or already used. They didn't realize that the information in those books was not always being placed in the newer books coming out.

"One also has to be careful not to get caught up in buying the same information over again. I personally would prefer to hear something about Langston or W.E.B DuBois from their perspective than from someone else's.

"When I started collecting, it was out of a sense of value, of worth... It was 'this is who I want to be like.' So, I don't adopt everything I read. I'm very careful and I select 'literature.' It's something that I have to have a connection with. If I'm going to read it, I don't want the person to use it in a negative way when he or she is expressing himself. Everyone is an individual. I don't get caught up in the nationalist way of thinking when I'm collecting the work.I'm more into those individuals who are more into the way that I think. Those who are more open. So, every time a Black writer writes a book I don't automatically go out and get it."

In a world where visual and recorded media dazzle with the speed of the images and sounds being thrown at us, Marshall recognizes how the "powers that be" overwhelm an under-served and poorly-read generation of young people. This makes his work as a collector all the more urgent. He says very bluntly that his sensibility comes from HOME, period."I have a picture of my grandmother's grandmother who was a slave. And when I was growing up, I used to hear from my grandmother about how her grandmother instilled certain values in her. Then my grandmother instilled them and it just moves on and on and on. So then it's not like one hasn't had a certain experience when you read it in book form.

"I was sharing this with a friend this morning, that we have a tendency to discard things, not passing them down. The family member may die, the first thing we do is look for money and anything else valuable, but we say toss these books, they're really not worth anything.

"I think for right now, my books should be with me," he laughs, with a sweeping gesture encompassing and pulling in all his collection, his legacy, towards him, "These are like my children. They're like my addiction. I'm forever out shopping and putting books on hold. But, eventually, I would like to see my nephews have the collection. If they don't want the collection, then I will probably give it to an institution or something. An institution within the community. One which would respect the collection. One which would use it to get knowledge and which young people would be able to come into and also teach them how to handle the books.

"I think that's a problem not just for young people but for adults as well. Most people are accustomed to handling paperback books, but there's a difference in the way you treat hardback books. I was taught a long time ago in school that you always treat a book with respect—you never write in a book.

"Some of the books I've had since I was eighteen or nineteen years old. They're still in A-1 condition." As is Mr. Howard Marshall at the ripe young age of 39 who understands fully that respect for history and lineage are both learned and taught values. And values worth truly having.

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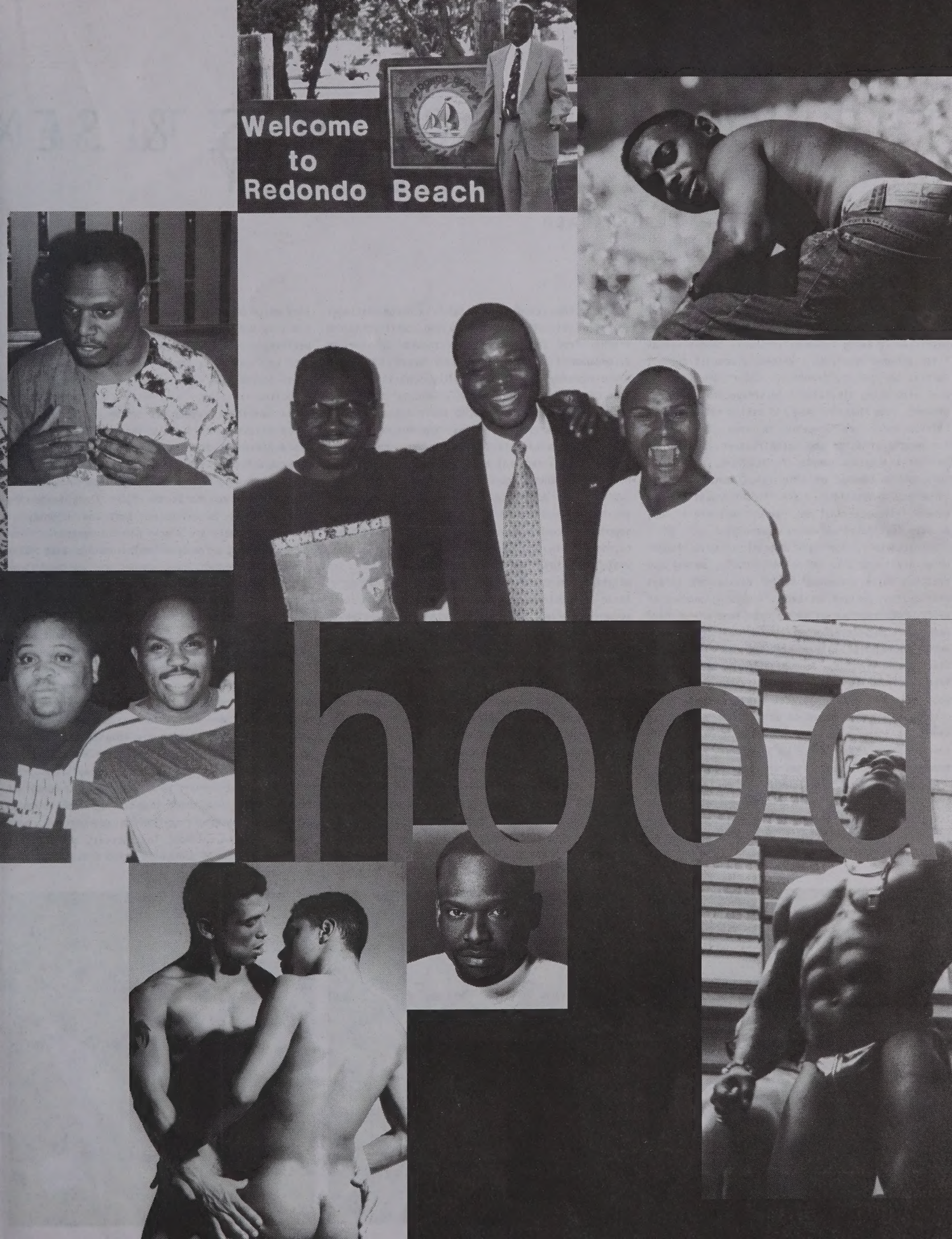

Welcome
to
Redondo Beach
hood

THE VARIOUS COLORS & SEX OF WHITE SUPREMACY

written March 3, 1992 by CLEO MANAGO
photos by RON SINGLETON

Over the past several years I've noticed a painful and menacing development among African-Americans, particularly among those referring to themselves as "lesbian" and "gay". In a white supremacist society such as ours, every "People of Color" group has to deal with being dismissed or disrespected by others of the same hue because of skin color and/or "African" (or non-European) features. Fortunately for people of Asian and Latin descent, and what's left of the Native people of this land, their culture and knowledge of origin has contributed to these groups sustaining a significant amount of cultural self-determination, pride and relevance, despite institutional white supremacy.

Unfortunately, for many Blacks, it's no longer necessary to wait on White individuals, solely, to practice white supremacy toward Blacks. We (Black people) have gained an ever increasing number of Black-White supremacist behaviors. Some of us have learned to be more deceptive and heinous than White-White supremacist. There are endless examples of Blacks who pose as "conscientious" Blacks when financially or politically convenient, to pull the wool over the eyes of Blacks who are continually disoriented and deprived of affirmation and sustenance. It is my view that this assessment isn't an insult to our intelligence as a people. The lack of reason and intelligence lies in white supremacy.

Racism, genocide, apartheid, the destruction of the rain forest, water, air and land pollution, dysfunctional families and communities and anti-Black behavior are all connected to the white supremacist ethic.

During the recent Black Men's Xchange National Cultural Retreat held in Oakland, California, a Brother from Sacramento asked another Brother in attendance from Azania (renamed South Africa by white-supremacist) why didn't the majority population of native African Blacks "eradicate" the minority government that dominated their land. His (the Azanian Brother's) answer was "the biggest weapon White Africans have is the mind of the oppressed." I've since learned that this is a quote from Stephen Biko, the murdered South African leader.

Because of self-hate and self-doubt, the questioning of our beauty and worth inspired by white supremacy (in all colors) many of us are disoriented, not knowing whether we are coming or going. Gang violence, AIDS, family and community crisis and political impotence (i.e. the Democratic and Republican parties) is at an all time high. This doesn't seem to affect the self-loathing, Black-White supremacist that tend to be "positioned" by white supremacist and supported by miseducated, misdirected Blacks. This feat is easily attainable in a society where one's significance is perpetually challenged by the mass media and a biased educational system, or where common-sense is literally beaten out of people through law enforcement, misdirected rage, social dilemmas and violence.

The dilemma of Black-White supremacy crosses all class, spiritual and sexuality lines in our community (any church that exhibits a White image of Jesus Christ above it's pulpit is practicing white supremacy).

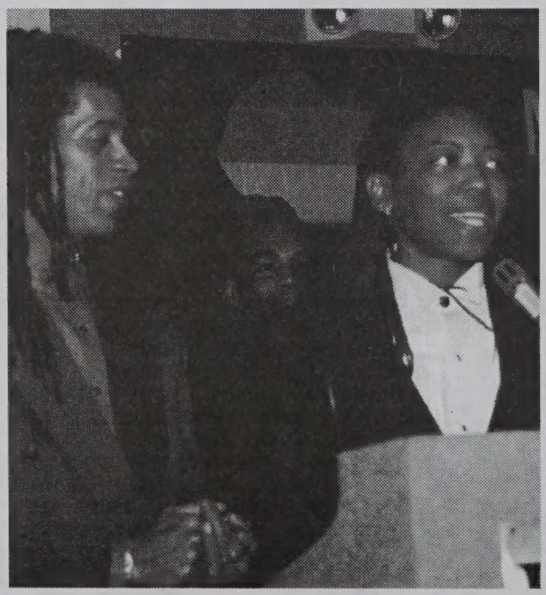
Every four years millions of Blacks passionately (and often blindly) support the presidency of White men they don't even know. It seems that some of us believe that white supremacy is right and not subject to inquiry, as long as it is being executed by white supremacist who call themselves Democrats or Republicans.

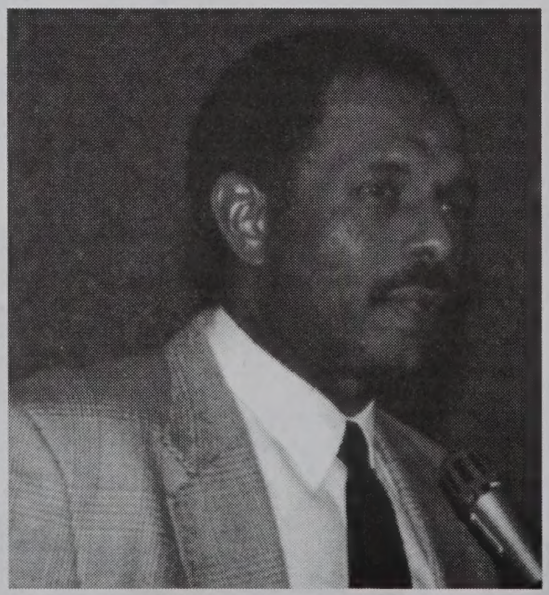
The particular group of white supremacist and often classist individuals inspiring this article are BLACK-WHITE SUPREMACIST HOMOSEXUALS and their life-threatening leadership.

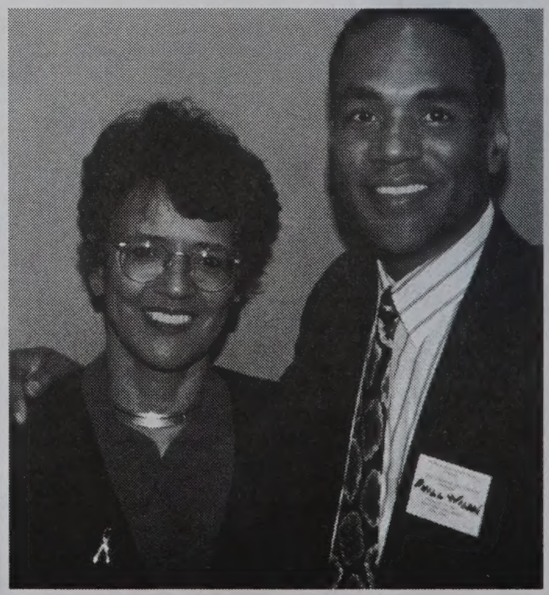
If one decides to open their eyes and notice who is commonly referred to as the "gay" Black leadership you will come to understand that the majority of these individuals are Blacks not interested in intimate, engaging or sensual relationships with other Blacks. Often when these issues are raised, those raising them are viewed by the assessed as people making a big deal out of nothing, and as divisive. Typically, this reaction purposely perpetuates ideas of overly "Black" militant behavior, distracting an often conflicted community from pondering the relevant issues raised.

Rarely is my concern about the growing rate of death, exploitation and dysfunction among African men viewed as a yearning for a community of Brothers & Sisters who righteously love Brothers & Sisters, who don't reject and mistreat each other as punishment for not being White (or "gay") enough.

Rarely is the concern regarding the high number of Black men who love men's bodies that are piling up addressed. Instead, "gay" white supremacist, both Black and White, attempt to discredit and scandalize the efforts of community-based Blacks who long







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to support and embrace themselves as Black men, as Black women, as Black people. Black "gay" leadership is beset with Blacks who are repulsed by other Blacks.

Look at your "leadership"; The Black Lesbian & Gay (Mis) Leadership Conference was designed and implemented by Black-White Supremacist via Black and White Men Together (BWMT). The majority of the Black "gay"-run AIDS agencies in this country are run by Black-White supremacist and conformist. The majority of Black homosexuals in this country who have any kind of public profile, are Blacks that White gays have physical, emotional, political, sexual and psychological access to.

This article is not about hating White people. It's about loving ourselves as ourselves, like other healthy people and healthier communities do; or at least not abusing and/or exploiting Black people because of an inability on our part to embrace our Black selves.

As racist and dismissive as the white-gay community's leadership is, at least they know that they must affirm themselves, their relationships and each other, to survive. Notice the white gay community's success at addressing and controlling the AIDS epidemic in "their" community. Their success is definitely not due to an epidemic of White men who aren't capable of embracing and loving other White men. Nor are they dealing with their leadership being provided by a group of White men who must have Black lovers; nor do they face massive problems of Black supremacy among their ranks.

Over 10 years into the AIDS epidemic, while we face a myriad of social, physical and emotional health problems, the incidence of death from avoidable and curable conditions continue to humiliate the very life out of our often very young Sisters, Brothers, Lovers and Friends in record numbers. What are the so-called "gay" Black leaders doing about it? Flying back and forth from Europe with their White Lovers and writing "prose" on how they "fear Black men more than they fear the Klan" (i.e. Essex Hemphill)!

Our liberal and passive attitudes toward Black-White supremacist behavior is literally killing us. Los Angeles and San Francisco are major areas for Black-White Supremacist behavior among Black homosexual "leadership".

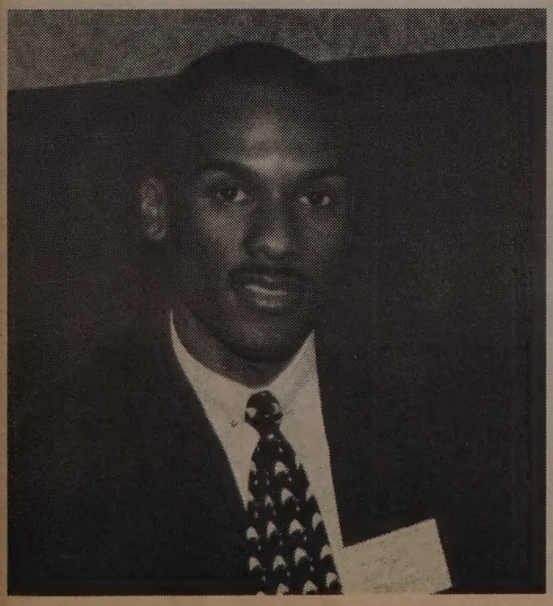
I receive calls from all over the country from Brothers and Sisters who are tired of White people addicted-Black-community-disrespecting Blacks. Even the Los Angeles-based publication which refers to itself as "The National Black Lesbian and Gay Newsmagazine" has proven, under the benignly neglectful leadership of its publishers, to be simply another Black community disrespecting, bourgeois, white-supremacist and classist document. One that systematically excludes issues and activities that affirm and encourage the Black community. Those of you who live outside of L.A.'s gay glitterati clique might not have noticed this phenomena. Those who don't care or who are frustrated with Black people for being oppressed, wouldn't notice. But those who love and are concerned about Black people would easily recognize this anti-Black pathology.

Wake up, my dear Sisters and Brothers and members of the human and humane family. Only love and self-love will resolve the perpetual difficulties of AIDS, substance abuse, loneliness, addiction, sexism, self-destruction, femophobia, homophobia, madness and the most heinous of them all, white supremacy, no matter what color the culprit.

Loving yourself is not simply a matter of looking in the mirror and saying I like what I see. Loving yourself is countering everything and anything on every level—politically, economically, educationally, conditionally, etc.—that minimizes the quality and integrity of your life, your community, and the life of human beings.

The high body count growing among Black people, coupled with our not too distant history of providing decent, principled and ethical pro-people leadership (Malcolm X, Fannie Lou Hammer, Martin Luther King Jr., Al Sharpton, Minister Louis Farrakhan, Dr. Francis Cress Welsing, to name a few) demands that we put specific emphasis on lifting and loving Black people, for all people benefit from Black Love. White supremacy, ultimately, even in Black face, benefits no one.

MR. MANAGO IS AN ACTIVIST, WRITER, INSTRUCTOR AND SOCIAL ARCHITECT CURRENTLY WORKING ON HIS PH. D. HE IS THE FOUNDER OF THE BLACK MEN'S XCHANGE (BMX), AN AFRICENTRIC NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS CLEARINGHOUSE AND SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR THE AFFIRMATION AND EMPOWERMENT OF BLACK MEN OF DIVERSE SEXUAL EXPRESSION. BMX CHAPTERS AND/OR CONTACTS ARE LOCATED IN LOS ANGELES, OAKLAND, SAN FRANCISCO, SACRAMENTO, ORANGE COUNTY, DETROIT, DENVER, ATLANTA, MINNEAPOLIS AND PHILADELPHIA. CLEO MANAGO IS ALSO THE FOUNDER OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN AIDS, SUPPORT-SERVICES & SURVIVAL INSTITUTES, INC. (AMASSI) IN THE CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES OF OAKLAND AND INGLEWOOD. MR. MANAGO IS THE CEO OF THE INGLEWOOD SITE AND CAN BE REACHED BY PHONE AT 310.419.1969, BY E-MAIL CLEOM@NCGATE.NEWCOLLEGE.EDU AND BY WORLD WIDE WEB HTTP://WWW.NEWCOLLEGE.EDU/PERSONAL/HOMES/CLEOM/



THE VARIOUS COLORS & SEXUALITIES OF WHITE SUPREMACY

CONTINUED

The Forum Is... The Forum Ain't

I recently returned from the 9th Annual National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference held in Dallas with mixed feelings bordering on great dismay.

Although the advantages of networking with many same gender loving Brothers and Sisters were obvious, the perception that The Forum represents the community-based Black same-gender loving community is misleading, and the Black homosexual press must share some of the blame for that "mis"-perception.

The hope that The Forum would become more community-oriented and less white influenced is all but gone as community-based homosexual Brothers and Sisters have been consistently kept off the Forum's Board and out of it's business in favor of those the white gay community feels more comfortable with.

In the last 5 years, according to sources inside the Forum, not a single town hall meeting has been held by the Forum with the Black same gender loving community, and there are no available Forum records confirming such a coming-together of the Forum and the community it purports to represent having ever occurred during the first 4 years of the organization's existence.

It should be of no surprise to anyone that most of the Board of Directors of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum who are in relationships have white lovers, live in white neighborhoods and have—other than themselves—mostly white associates. I mention this not because it should matter who one chooses to love, associate with and where to live, but the choice of a governing body which removes itself emotionally, physically, culturally and socially from its claimed constituency is a dangerous calculation, not a color-blind coincidence.

The new NBGLLF newsletter, The Forum, in its suspicious zeal, credits only the white gay media—The Advocate, Out, Genre, Frontiers, The Washington Blade and The Baltimore Gay Paper—for the extraordinary coverage it has received, while completely ignoring the black homosexual press—The Male Box (Washington D.C.), KICK! (Detroit), Venus (Atlanta), Buti Voxx (Boston) and SBC (Los Angeles)—which, over the years has (naively, as it turns out) provided a disproportionate amount of free publicity, press coverage and donated advertising space.

During the Dallas conference, The Forum provided complimentary banquet tickets to certain members of the white gay press while all black publications were required to pay.

The Dallas branch of Black and White Men Together is listed in the conference brochure as a sponsor although 4 years ago Forum co-founder Phill Wilson vehemently protested the release of publicity that listed the L.A. branch of BWMT as a co-sponsor, a fact that was meant to be covered up.

Several brothers whose financial situations did not allow them the "luxury" of staying in the hotel at the (1993) Secaucus, N.J. conference rode busses to the sight, carrying extra clothing as protection from the freezing weather, only to be rebuked by Forum bourgeois hierarchy. According to one brother, James Stokes, he was approached by Forum co-founder Ruth Waters and snidely told, "You look like a bum."

The Forum's coziness with the white gay establishment is only exceeded by it's complete lack of knowledge and concern of and for the black homosexual community that exist within the black community.

I was told by a Board member that changes will be coming, that the Board is just an interim Board, that town hall meetings are on their way. It's been 9 years, kids! The days of 'Big House' politics are over. Even the ancient NAACP is beginning to realize it's time to shit or get off the pot.

What Mr. Manago wrote about in 1992 is, sadly, still true today. Africentric homosexuals must—MUST—understand the difference between black skin and black consciousness, and we must also understand that our survival—the preservation of our culture as BLACK men and women who love members of our own gender and members of our own 'hood—is not about destroying or disrespecting anyone else's 'hood. It is about not letting the White Supremacist in Black face misrepresent a cultural pride they do not share.

—Stanley Bennett Clay

ALL THE EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS (L TO R): CURTIS LIPSCOMB (KICK MAGAZINE), CHARLENE CATHERN (VENUS MAGAZINE), GREGORY VICTORIANNE (BUTI VOXX), AND STANLEY BENNETT CLAY (SBC)

The Empowerment Collective

ATTAINING SELF-DETERMINATION THROUGH ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

by DONALD L. PERRY II, MBA
Managing General Partner, Pine Cobble Partners

There is a crisis in our community. The crisis is a lack of self-determination over the context in which we live our lives and provide for our selves, our families, our friends, our lovers and our brethren. It should be painfully obvious that the old "leadership" and their old "solutions" are ineffectual and unprepared to deal with the crisis that threatens our community. They are politically marginalized and cannot count on guilt-induced entreaties to the familiar coalition of economically powerful outsiders whose gifts, grants, donations and alms have provided the cornerstone of the old order's power in our communities. A new wind is blowing and it offers both damnation and salvation. Only the purity of our hearts and the resoluteness of our purpose can bring beneficence from the maelstrom swirling about us.

THIS IS A CALL TO ARMS. We must come together to create a movement that will provide enlightenment for all those in our community who would seek to regain power over their lives. We must create a body of knowledge that can be passed on, from Brother to Brother, from Sister to Sister, from Brother to Sister, from one spirit brimming with experience to another hungering for a chance to learn.

THE EMPOWERMENT COLLECTIVE IS NOW IN SESSION. The purpose of this new movement, which is to be fostered and developed in small groups meeting in living rooms, basement rec rooms and kitchens, is to provide people with knowledge, skills, tools and support to enable them to pursue their dreams of entrepreneurial and career success in an ever more challenging and competitive environment. THE EMPOWERMENT COLLECTIVE is an attempt to create spaces where the experiences and wisdom learned by successful Black lesbians and gays can be passed on to their Brothers and Sisters who also aspire to economic success and self-sufficiency. Whether one is seeking counsel and guidance on how to start a new venture without repeating the mistakes that lead to business failure, or one is seeking input on how to transition from a dead-end career into a more exciting and self-fulfilling profession, THE EMPOWERMENT COLLECTIVE is aimed at bringing people together who can share what they have gleaned from having crossed similar territory or faced similar issues in their lives.

Meetings are being organized for Los Angeles, Chicago, New York and Washington D.C. over the next few months. These initial meetings are designed to explain the grass-roots orientation of THE EMPOWERMENT COLLECTIVE and will begin to build the informal infrastructure that will provide speakers, articles and other materials to support the spread of THE COLLECTIVE. One of the unique goals of THE COLLECTIVE will be to find Black gay and lesbian-owned businesses that are wholesale oriented (i.e. which sell goods and services to other businesses) and which can be expanded with additional capital resources. Through an affiliated company, Pine Cobble has a goal of providing $60 million in financing to entrepreneurial companies during 1996. In the last two years, Pine Cobble has provided in excess of $30 million to African-American-owned companies in Los Angeles, making it the largest provider of funding for such firms. By contrast, the Top Ten SBA lenders to African-American-owned businesses in Los Angeles, which includes such institutions as Bank of America and African-American-owned Founders National Bank, provided only $13 million combined over the same period.

As co-founder and co-owner of Pine Cobble, I want Black gay and lesbian businesses to share in the economic success my firm is making possible. To that end, as one of the trustees of THE EMPOWERMENT COLLECTIVE, I look at THE COLLECTIVE as an instrument to develop more economically viable enterprises of greater economic scale within the Black gay and lesbian community. Only through the nurturing and developing of our own economic base can we as a community take care of the concerns that are important to us and support the institutions, such as SBC, which speak to our needs.

If you are interested in joining with THE EMPOWERMENT COLLECTIVE, send a fax with your name, address, phone and brief description of your background, special skills and interests to THE COLLECTIVE at 818.858.0301. Or mail your information to THE EMPOWERMENT COLLECTIVE, care of SBC magazine.

THIS IS A CALL TO ARMS. We must come together to create a movement that will provide enlightenment for all those in our community who would seek to regain power over their lives.

A Funeral Without A Face

by PAUL M. SMITH, LICSW

Washington D.C.–Once again I sat in an unfamiliar church to pay my last respects to a fallen brother. I sat alone but surrounded by a scattering of mostly men, but a few women, in small groups of two's and three's. A pipe organ played softly, but soulfully, as people continued to file in and quietly take seats. The mood was reverent and somber. Hearts seemed heavy with grief and the heaviness filled the air as the family, who had flown in that morning from the Midwest, filed in. A group of about eight men and women of varying ages took their seats in the front pew on the left side of the altar reserved for "Family". As a tear slid down my cheek, I was once again painfully aware that it was yet another memorial service for yet another friend who had endured a long illness and an agonizing death from AIDS.

The organ abruptly changed its tempo as the minister approached the altar to open the service. In many ways it was not an unusual gathering in memorial nor was the deceased unlike many brothers who came to DC seeking the good gay life that promised love, success and happiness. A scenario that we've come to know all too well; a dream once again shattered by the specter of AIDS.

After about two minutes into the service, it was clear that the minister knew nothing about the man whose remains lay cremated before him. He kept to the safety of the scriptures and spoke compassionately, but rather impersonally, to the family. It was also clear that he knew nothing about them as well. He went on about loss and bereavement and he spoke in generalities about death and dying. But, it was apparent to me that he was unable to speak directly to the life, the suffering, and finally the death of the man whose ashes rested in the urn.

The service ended in less than forty-five minutes with the singing of "How Great Thou Art". We filed out of the pews and gathered in small groups to quietly greet one another. The family was briskly ushered away to awaiting cars–probably to be whisked to the airport to board a plane for home. By the end of the hour, it was all over and the doors of the church were locked behind us.

This was not an unfamiliar nor undignified memorial service. So, why was I so upset and unresolved by what I had just witnessed. It took the drive back to my office for me to finally acknowledge my pain. The ritual that I had just attended was a "one size fits all" memorial service. It was a funeral without a face–designed to avoid dealing with the realities of the life of it's "guest of honor". Too much was left unsaid–such as, the man had lost his long battle with AIDS. Left unsaid was the fact that the man's life partner of six years and his primary caregiver was quietly seated between two close friends on the right side of the altar. Left unsaid was the fact that the man had dedicated many years of his life working behind the scenes, championing human rights and anti-AIDS discrimination causes at the local and community level. Left unsaid was that this man had a passion for art, music, drag shows and his kitties Abbey and Sassy. The list went on and on.

In a perfect world, this article would not be necessary–and I certainly acknowledge that we aren't living in a perfect world and submit that much of our lives lay far outside of our direct control. Having said that however, I believe that we can do a much better job of asserting the truth to those who may feel it politically incorrect to speak it themselves. Why? Because we owe it to ourselves and to our brothers to hold our communities accountable for the truth about who we are and what we stand for, even in death. If we are willing to hand over to the ministers and mainstream churches the role of articulating the life and death experience of our gay and bisexual brothers who die of AIDS, we need to demand more from them in terms of speaking our truth and relating our life experiences with dignity and veracity. Not to do so diminishes us as a community and as a people. It is reasonable to assume that many families can be real tricky under stress–especially those families that, in their grief, need to minimize the stress by concealing their loved one's homosexuality and death from AIDS. However, he (the deceased) may have been theirs, but he was also ours and we were his 'family' as well. So, with or without 'The Family's' indulgence, we owe it to our brother to find a way to speak boldly his truth, honor the realities of his life and celebrate his presence in our lives with the same dignity and veracity that we would want for ourselves. We either do it in one memorial service or we create another. I know that this does happen a lot.

I pray that I will never again have to attend another memorial service that remains nameless, faceless and lifeless while I and others sit in quiet indignation in one of our city's grand churches, led by one of our city's most sanctimonious, prestigious purveyors of God's Love. My fear is that, given the world we live in, that prayer may not be answered soon enough. Therefore, we have a lot to work towards.

I believe it to be a reasonable goal to ensure that members of our community who die of AIDS can be eulogized, celebrated and remembered with the dignity and honor that accurately portrays the content and context of their lives, their suffering and their death without compromise and expurgation. Let that be our work and our commitment in 1996.

Paul M. Smith · LICSW

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CREATING A BLACK GAY MEN'S COLLECTIVE

by WILLIAM H. JONES, JR.

Oakland, California—There has existed, since the days of Stonewall, the need for a militant grassroots Black Gay Men's organization. Many well-meaning activists have insisted that it is not Africentric to separate Black people into categories as the white community does, and that creating a movement based on sexual preference is counterproductive to Black Unity. However, those who choose this thinking must understand that government dispenses its services to interest groups that are organized and assertive.

Various sectors of our community such as The Black Church for an example, single us out and vilify us which is why our accomplishments need to be put on record. In order to accomplish this a vibrant Black Gay Men's organization must be created.

Attempts to create such a group have always failed and there exists a drastic inability for major factions of the Black Gay community to agree to disagree. Second: Such dysfunctional behavior leads to a tyranny of the majority which discourages the participation of creative people possessing innovative ideas.

I identify four major intractable forces that immobilize Black Gay Male Groups:

The first is **Internalized Homophobia.** Closeted men are allowed to enter and assume management duties. One of the primary functions of our groups is to offer healing. How can one find healing in an organization headed by closeted men? What kind of leadership can such a group provide?

The second is **Classism.** Men who hold socially exclusionary attitudes toward working class people and their issues, i.e. housing, health care, labor, etc. are destructive. A constructive group must embrace working class issues.

The third is **Anti-Nationalism.** The fear of in-depth exploration of African culture and embracing Black Nationalism severely affects the solidarity within the organization and respect by progressive heterosexuals.

The fourth is **Anti-Radicalism.** Too many of our brothers embrace the status quo. They seek false security in the multinational corporate economic system that puts profit before people with its worldwide destruction of the environment and indigenous societies.

I suggest a creation of a man's society that would emphasize four basic qualities:

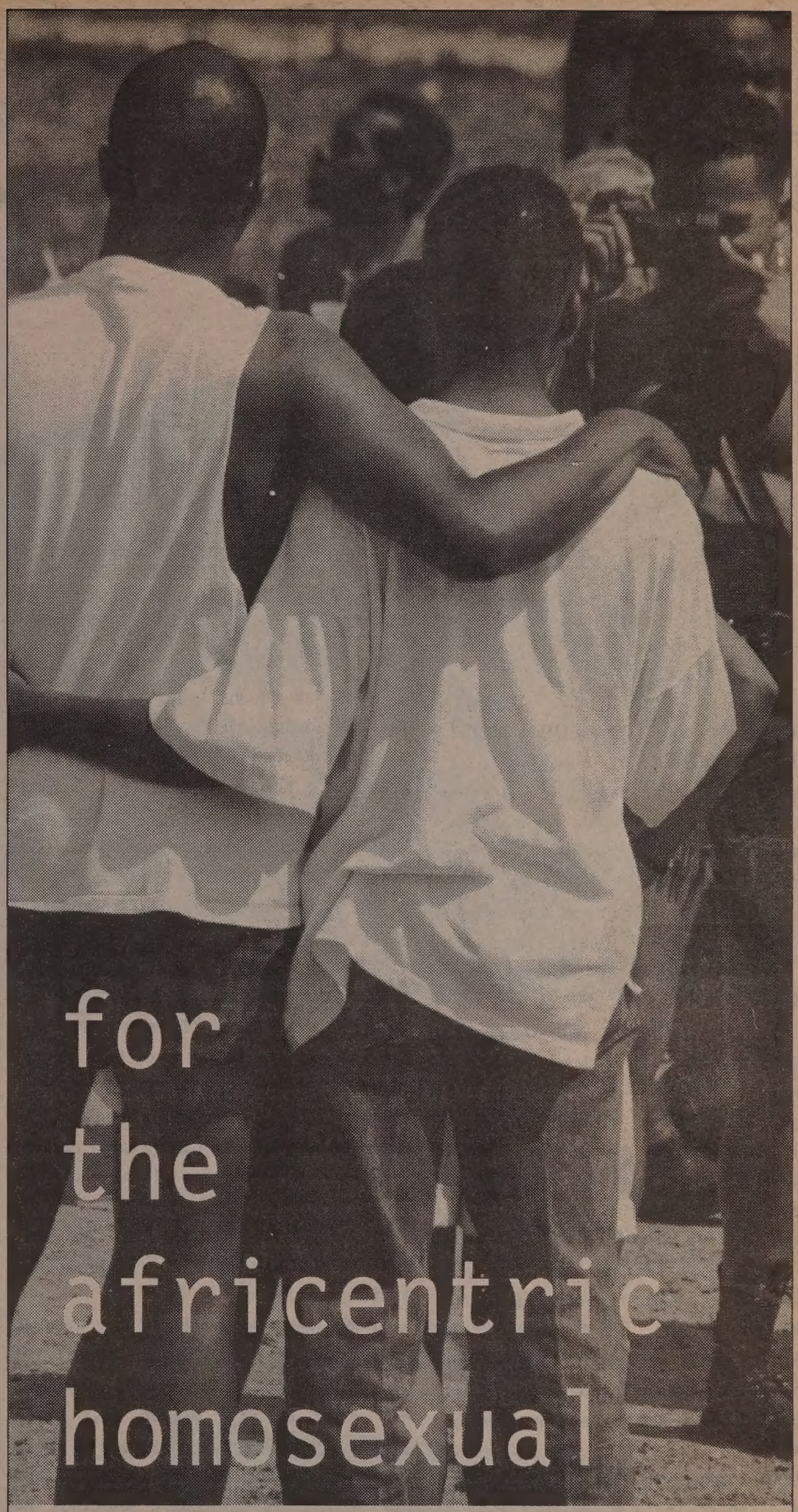
One: All applicants must be out of the closet.

Two: We must embrace our fellow brothers in their fight for economic, political and social empowerment.

Three: We must see our brothers as members of a nation and engage our brothers in the building of that nation.

Four: We must not be afraid of the term socialism, which simply means an economic and political system based on human needs and aspirations.

I look forward to your comments.



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Twenty years ago Augustus Washington first told me "I love you'.

Ever since then, I lovingly referred to him as

my Mr. Washi

I stood proudly behind that man for the whole twenty years.

William Bradford and my Mr. Washington were being considered for the executive director post of one of San Francisco's largest public agencies. Before the board meeting, where their names were to be announced, Bill "happened" to run into Mr. Havenor in the men's room. Mr. Havenor was one of the board members. He and Bill had known each other since graduate school.

"Augustus or me--boy you've got a tough decision to make," Bill said while washing his hands. Mr. Havenor just nodded his head as he dried his hands. He checked himself in the large mirror, making sure each white hair was in place. Both men were oblivious to the black restroom attendant wiping the steel gray stalls.

"But I guess we've got to join that affirmative action bandwagon." Bill laughed, "It's not like the good old days."

"Damn right," Mr. Havenor shook his head disapprovingly.

They left for the board room. As Bill grinned and held the restroom door open for Mr. Havenor, he placed his hand on Mr. Havenor's back and asked, "By the way, will you and Harriet be joining the wife and me for dinner Thursday night?"

They walked down the oak paneled hallway joking about Mr. Washington's flamboyant style--"That big bushy moustache...where did he find those loud gaudy ties...that purple suit makes him look like a giant grape".

"He definitely doesn't fit in with the traditional corporate culture," Mr. Havenor shook his head and chuckled. Neither one noticed the restroom attendant taking a different route to the board room.

The board room was paneled in the same oak as the hallway. The furniture was old with a bulky, ornately carved styling. Maroon-colored carpeting covered the floor.

The restroom attendant left the room right before the meeting started.

After the meeting, Mr. Washington stormed over to Mr. Havenor who was finishing his conversation with one of the other board members. He confronted Mr. Havenor on that conversation in the restroom with Bill. "I have a Stanford M.B.A," he said, "what does Bill have?" A surprised Mr. Havenor tried to feign ignorance as Mr. Washington answered the question himself, "A Congressman father-in-law. That's all he has! And what kind of affirmative action is that?"

Mr. Havenor didn't know what to say, so he fidgeted stupidly as my Mr. Washington continued.

My Mr. Washington stared Mr. Havenor in the eyes, "I'm the best. I don't fit in, I stand out! Besides," he raised his voice as Bill walked past while giving Mr. Havenor a questioning look, "as many times as I've tongue-lashed Bill's ass at the board meetings he ought to know I don't mind standing out!" Mr. Washington looked at Bill challengingly. Bill just kept on walking. I adore my arrogant-assed Mr. Washington.

But two board meetings later the board still hadn't decided whether Bill or my Mr. Washington would be the next executive director. So Bill played his trump card. He went before the board and suggested that Mr. Washington's taste for expensive suits were not conservative enough. "This agency has an image to uphold," he rubbed his chin and stopped to think. "In fact," he deliberated over the next statement, "couldn't a GAY Black executive director damage our image?" The whole room was silent. Mr. Washington was shocked! He had always been discreet about his homelife--and very concerned about his image.

But Bill's scheme backfired. A gay CEO. The press whirled, instantly making my Mr. Washington a media hero! The gay newspapers raced to put Mr. Washington on their covers! Mr. Washington's agency loved the publicity!

The next morning Mr. Washington called me from work. An excited gay press filled his office. They wanted a picture of Mr. Washington with his "better half". I felt honored to be touted as part of the male "Couple of the 90s". I was proud to be by my man's side.

I walked into Mr. Washington's office and felt an instant hush. The reporters and photographers stared at me.

Mr. Washington looked up and saw me. He quickly ran over to me sporting his corporate smile. Discreetly he held my arm and led me to the hallway. I noticed the diamond ring I bought him last Christmas. It still looked good on him.

"I just mentioned to them that my 'better half' was a Black man," he whispered. "They're surprised." He averted his eyes before clearing his throat nervously, "They decided to use pictures of me by myself. The image of two Black men together would be 'too Black' for their readership. You understand, baby. I can't look 'too Black'...it's just politics."

Still looking away, he kissed my forehead. Yet I still hurt. Those reporters invaded our little world. I've stood behind my Mr. Washington for over twenty years--ever since he led a student protest at San Francisco State University. He was the "crazy" Black militant leading the organizational meetings on the grass in front of the Student Union. "We need African names," he told me one day. He chose Malik for himself. He chose Khalil for me. But today he's 'too black'. What did that say about me?

Mr. Washington studied my eyes. I couldn't return his gaze, but I discreetly squeezed his hand and smiled, "Of course. I understand."

I peeked into his office and smiled apologetically. "I hope I don't seem rude by leaving so soon," I waved, "but I have to teach tonight. Please understand." They couldn't see Mr. Washington kneading my other hand. The media people smiled and waved back--obviously relieved.

I rushed down the hall as they began the photo session. "Great guy," I could hear Mr. Washington saying. I could still feel his eyes on me.

I returned home from class at 10:00 that night. Mr. Washington was singing loudly in the shower--as usual. He had left his clothes on the floor in front of the bed. His gold watch and diamond ring laid on the nightstand. I undressed, left my own clothes on the floor, turned off the lights and sat on the bed. I pulled the navy blue down comforter over my feet. I stared out the window at the moon, Bakers Beach, the Pacific Ocean, the Golden Gate Bridge and Marin County.

I tuned the radio to the jazz station where Chaka Khan was brazenly taunting someone with "the problem is you ain't been loved like you should/ what I got to give will sho' nuff do you good--" The twang of the guitar added an edge to her sultry seduction. That was love-making music; but not for tonight.

I turned to the other jazz station. Aretha was singing Giving Him Something He Can Feel. I turned the radio off and just sat in the dark.

Like a proud peacock, Mr. Washington paraded out the shower ten minutes later in his full naked flamboyance. The moonlight reflected his every curve. The shadows were black. He was too vain to have anything less than the

by Kheven LeGrone

ngton

most striking body. His chest was hard. His stomach was a firm chocolate curly-haired washboard. I always believed his body reflected his winning spirit.

I reached under the bed. In the moonlight, I saw his self-congratulatory smirk and strut come to a sudden halt as he approached the bed.

"C'mon baby, you know that wasn't my fault," his voice became soft and sugary. His voice almost went whiny.

"Now!" I snarled.

He tried to soften my mood by gently kissing my forehead, my eyes, my nose, my lips. It felt good. He knew it.

"We need to sleep now," he purred.

I yanked his chin to where his eyes met mine. "I promise you not one moment of sleep." He recognized the tone and glower of my eyes. His face twitched slightly.

He sighed deeply, dropped his eyes and resignedly offered his wrists. I placed the leather restraints on them and slammed him onto the bed. He fell onto a pillow.

I straddled the back of his neck for better control. I reached behind the wrought iron headboard for my wooded paddle. He grimaced as he braced himself for a fate that was totally under my control.

Over the years, he learned not to plead. Pleading just annoyed me. I needed no input from him.

"Now, Sweet Daddy, ignore me!" I challenged. There was a swoop and a loud, sharp smack as I snapped the paddle against his defiantly high ass. Watching that pretty round ass dance in the moonlight and dark shadows was satisfying. His grunt of apology were muffled by the pillow so the neighbors couldn't hear.

A second smack brought another, more weary, jerk of his body.

I rolled off his neck onto the bed. Puppy-dog eyes followed me--wondering. Just waiting.

"You still want to ignore me?" I asked threateningly. He flinched as I grabbed his chin and pulled his mouth to my flaccid, but fattening dick. He asked no questions. Exercising his lips and tongue, he demonstrated the skill developed only by twenty years of practice.

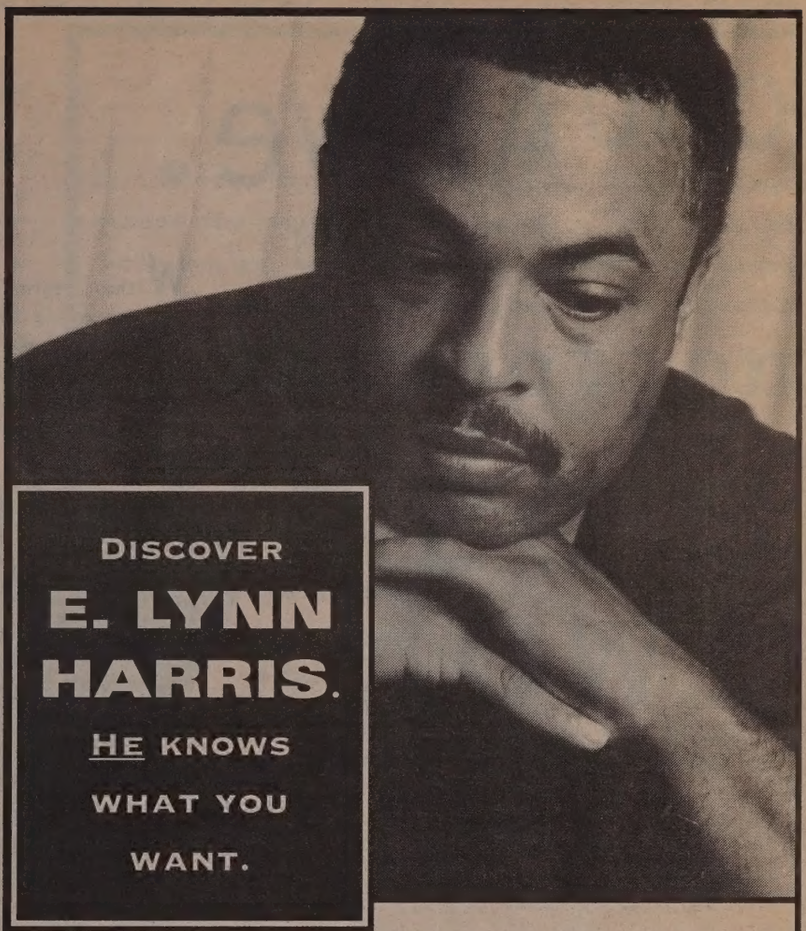
And true to his nature, he was the best in EVERYTHING he did.

Moments later, my anger transformed into an arousal that vibrated my prostate. Tingling trailed into my family jewels onto my glands.

I felt "the explosion" cumming. Mr. Washington was too skilled. I knew I'd cum too soon--and too forcefully. "Not yet!" I pleaded.
I gasped and tried to pull away.

"Wait!" I pleaded again. But Mr. Washington had pinned me down with his broad shoulders. I couldn't get away. I couldn't push his head away. His lips gripped me like a bulldog. I sucked my teeth. He sucked my mind blank. My body collapsed. I just surrendered...melted. I reached for the same pillow my Mr. Washington had screamed into only minute before. This time, as my anger and arousal exploded from the head of my penis, it was MY body that shook wildly. This time, I muffled My yells into that pillow.

Mr. Washington left for the office at the usual 6 o'clock the next morning. I was still asleep when the phone rang at 8 o'clock. It was a reporter from the newspaper. He heard that the rock behind Mr. Washington was a starry-eyed, nutty li'l professor lovingly called Khalil. He wanted to do a special story on me. After all, the reporter joked, "behind every strong man..."



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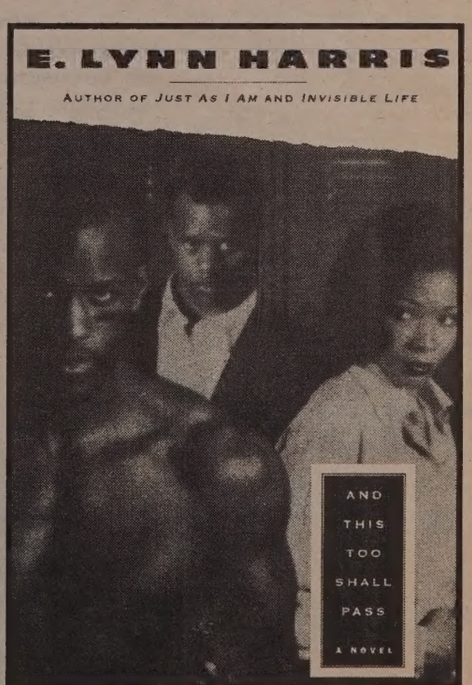

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or polite apologies
i want a man
i want a black man
black like/coffee with cream
black like/the blacker the berry
the sweeter the juice
black like/black is beautiful
black like/say it loud
say it proud
black like/brothers can be
black like/black like/me

i want a man
i want a black man
blessed by the sun
with dick swingin'
dick swingin left and right
tick tock
like a pendulum clock
always on time
and a round ass
ass round and tight
sugar coated
and honey-dipped

i want a man
i want a black man
who is no less than a man
blacker than
a thousand midnights
super black
a demi-god
a king
a warrior
beating tribal drums
and throwing spears
feared/like thunder

i want a man
i want a black man
defiant and strong
who survived
the middle passage
stronger stills
who can move me
move me black
to my roots
and make me speak in afrikan dialogue

i want a man
i want a black man
i want a black man to love
in a place void of the longitude
and latitude of navigators
to love now and forever more
in the moonlight
AND the daylight
without shame/fear
or rigid protocol

i want a man
i want a black man
i want a black man
loving me/loving me
without conditions
or consequence
with arms outstretched
as we embrace each other
and dare the world
dare the whole damn world
to deny us the freedom
and the right to be/ALIVE

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your signature

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All Classifieds and Paid Personals are $15 for up to 25 words. Additional words past 25 are 20 cents each. You must include your phone number, whether it appears in your ad or not. All Personal ads must be verified prior to publication by telephone.

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TO RESPOND TO A SPECIFIC SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AD, MAKE NOTE OF THE FOUR DIGIT BOX NUMBER FOLLOWING THE AD. THEN CALL 1-900-844-4SBC(4722) AND FOLLOW THE PROMPTS. OR CALL 1-900-844-4SBC (4722) TO BROWSE THROUGH OUR HUGE SELECTION OF LOCAL VOICE ADS. YOU MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER. ALL CALLS ARE $1.45 PER MINUTE/$1.95 FOR THE FIRST MINUTE. 1-900-844-4SBC CAN BE ACCESSED FROM MOST SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA CODES.

ATTRACTIVE, STABLE, CREATIVE, GBM MUSICIAN, 6' 1", 150 lbs., 38, honest, caring, affectionate, laid-back, quiet yet strong, masculine and faithful. My passions are acoustic jazz, cultural explorations, laughing, touching, movies, reading, togetherness, tennis and bowling. Seeking a "team player" of similar mind to develop a mutually supportive companionship. Box # 4090

BOTTOMS ONLY. Buttman loves to ride a firm ass to get it loose with the juice. I'm a Bi BM, 6' 1", 245 lbs., HIV-, and love to take pictures of my artwork. Mid-Wilshire Area. Box # 1397

BLACK MALE, 34, 5' 10", 180 LBS., HIV-, NON-SMOKER, NO DRUGS. Looking for a Black male close to my build and age for friendship or more. Also must be sexually versatile. Box # 1410

VGL, 34 Y/O, 5' 10", 160 LBS., IN EXCELLENT SHAPE with Mediterranean features (olive skin, dark eyes & dark hair, hairy chest, straight acting, professional, seeking a very special, masculine, straight acting and appearing professional man who values a romantic, monogamous, long-term relationship. He must be healthy, handsome & an honest and aggressive gentleman. Box # 2160

TALL, THIN, GOODLOOKING, BIG DICK BROTHER WANTS SAME. I'm hot for 9 inches or more. You be too. Let's bump and grind. Box # 1405

TOUGH 'N TENDER; ELEGANT 'N FREAKY. Live in the Global LeatherFetish Village w/White Leather GRIOT, 58. Lookin' Great! Feelin' Great! Ready to train 'chosen' New-Century Black Warrior, any age, in a dominant/submissive total LoveStyle. Achieve and receive all benefits and fame that full partnership can Bring.

NEW IN TOWN, BRITISH-NIGERIAN young black man, 29 yrs., 5' 7", 8" dick, slim, defined swimmer's body. Seeks other Nigerians, West Africans and other Africans for friendship fun and more. You—between 25-35 yrs., under 6 ft., well built, well hung (over 8"), str8 looking/acting. Top. Box # 2142

BGM, MASCULINE, 6', 190 LBS. LIGHT SKIN BOTTOM ISO warm and masculine BM who will squeeze, caress & excite every inch of my thighs, butt & tummy. Dick size unimportant, but no drugs, fats or fems. Box # 1379

VERY WELL-ENDOWED, VERY ATTRACTIVE, CUT, VERSATILE, HIV-, 25 YEAR OLD BLACK MAN, 6', 170 lbs., great long slim body, great smile, great personality and great sex. ISO HIV-, very well-endowed, very attractive and personable Black men, 25-40, with good bodies (no overweights) and great sexual abilities (a little on the freaky side is not bad). I am into hot, safe sexual encounters. I am not into games, flakes, fems and/or irresponsibility. Let's hook up soon. You will not be disappointed. Box # 2122

MUSCLE TO MUSCLE. FREAKY RUGGED RUFF STUFF. Hot hairy VGL WM BB, 42, 6', 195 buffed pounds. HIV-, works out/over/on muscular men who can get lowdown and dirty. Into SM, BD. Also, mutual scenes/power exchange with other heavy studs. Pluses: Hairy and big balls. Box # 4088

AGGRESSIVE DOMINANT TOP WANTED FOR SOME HOT ACTION. Any race or age. I'm Italian, 45, 6', football player build. Box # 4087

ROMANTIC, FUN LOVING, SPIRITUAL, GOOD LOOKING, INTELLIGENT, SENSITIVE MAN IN HIS 40'S. Looking for "Mr. Right". Box # 1449

BLK, 39, ROUGHNECK, HIV+ looking for other roughneck HIV+, 28-45. Very muscular, versatile, love to cook, 5' 6"- 6'2". No smoker, drugs, but bud smoker OK! Box # 1398

30ISH CUBAN-AMERICAN MAN-CHILD, 5' 10", 175 lbs., solid, husky build, caramel skin, green eyes, blk hair, thick legs, great ass, non-fem bottom, boyish charm. ISO big dick tops that like to fuck. Long Beach area yea. Box # 2111

ASIAN TREASURE! I am handsome, clean-cut, versatile, sensual, great personality. Let's get together for safe & erotic fun. I'll massage your whole body if UR masculine & smooth. UB HIV-, discreet, 18-35, no games, flakes or drugs. Relax & enjoy. Long Beach area. Box # 2156

WANTED: VERY LARGE, HARD, ROUNDED BUNS with smooth, muscular body, masculine, HIV-, easy-going, for friendship or more. Me: Hispanic, 5' 10", 180 lbs., down-to-earth, athletic body, outdoors, masculine, HIV-, well-endowed. Box # 1341

WANTED: BIG DARK TOP MAN. I'm Japanese, 5' 4", 135 lbs. I'm looking for a Dark Skin GBM Top. Movies, dinner. I want to build a relationship. Box # 1403

2 ATTRACTIVE, WELL-HUNG YOUNG MEN 23 & 19 y.o., In/Out. Looking to perform tag team for any serious persons with finances. A time to remember. Tops and bottoms are welcomed. Call for hot young sex. Box # 2130

YOU'RE NEVER GONNA GET IT!!! Unless you are a masculine, Top, Black male, 25-35, Tall, in-shape, handsome and at least 8 inches. I'm 27, 6', 170 lbs., caramel skin, looking for someone to have fun/sex with. I love the movies and dining out. HIV-. UB2. Box # 1473

VERY ATTRACTIVE LIGHT-SKINNED GBM, 22 Y/O, 5' 8", 155 LBS. Looking 4 pretty boy Tops who have their heads on straight. I'm a down-to-earth, good-looking-straight-appearing kinda brother. Looking for the same. Fine brothers only. Ring me. No disappointments. Box # 4091

T.L.C. FOR SPECIAL GENTLE BM FROM ONE OF THE NICEST, SWEETEST, GENTLEST GM'S IN LA. Me: creative, artistic, intelligent, romantic, non-smoking professional with a mediterranean complexion. I'm tall, slender, in-shape, HIV-. I'm 50 years old. U.B. slender, or average build and interested in meeting. Box # 1417

GWM SEEKING BLACK MUSCLE STUDS TO FUCK MY FACE. Love to deep throat uncut black meat. Bodybuilders A+, uniform men A+. Would love to sharpen your pencil. The bigger the better Box # 3050

19 YEAR OLD BLACK MALE STUDENT ISO a very attractive roughneck, 18-25, for more than sex! Box # 1355

QUE PASA? PUERTORIQUENO DE 21 ANOS, DE ALTURA REGULAR Y CURPO mediano, moreno, busca companero latino masculino, alto, con verga y wevos grande. Me gusta disfruter mucho, afuera y dentro de la cama! Soy sincero, simpatico, decente, y busco alquien con la mismas qualidades! Si quieres harcelo Llama Attora! Box # 4083

ATTRACTIVE DARK SKIN BOTTOM WITH A GREAT SMILE AND ASS. I'm 6' tall, 165 lbs., gymnast. ISO tall, uncut Black or PR tops with a basketball build. Box # 1387

HANDSOME, 5' 9", BROWN HAIR, BLUE EYES, NATURAL LOOKING WHITE MALE M.A. STUDENT who likes the outdoors, movies, great conversation, sensuality. Seeking very masculine, good-looking, fit, 30-35 y.o. Top, caramel skin with similar interest for dating. Box # 1360

HANDSOME WHITE MALE, 36 Y.O., 6' 1", 220 LBS. Dk brown hair, baby blue eyes, muscular. In search of Handsome Black Prince who is a together person, who knows what he likes in life. If you're 28 to 45 yrs. old, over 5' 11", in shape, Top, sincere, let's see if we can hook up. Box # 2149

DARK GBM, 27 YRS. OLD, 6' 2", 210 LBS. WELL HUNG TOP. Great body, HIV-. You be well hung versatile 21-35 clean Black men only. No games. Be honest, HIV-. GOOD TIMES AND NASTY SEX. PLEASE, DISCREET ONLY. GET AT ME. Box # 1013

VERY HANDSOME HIV- BGM. Great personality, mid-20's, 6' 1", 175 lbs., 9 hot cut inches, in search of goodlooking White or Latino, 25-40, HIV-, for good times and sex. It's all good. Box # 1446

GOT 2B REAL! HANDSOME GBM (GINGERBREADMAN), 35, red-brown, 5' 9", 145 lbs., artist, HIV?. Enjoys life, arts, people, music (Snoop To Jessye), dancing, travel, bed (versatile). ISO dark, handsome, GBM (African, African-American or West Indian), mature (23-37), in-shape, creative, alive, passionate, viceless, doer. RU REAL? Let's talk. Box # 1391

WANTED: TALL, DARK AND HANDSOME BROTHER. I'm 32, 5' 9", 165 lbs., light complexion, attractive, muscular. ISO serious-minded, masculine, muscular BLK man for friendship and possible relationship. Box # 2128

HOT ROMANTIC BIBM (NEW TO L.A. FROM CHICAGO) VGL 5' 8", 145 LBS., 29 yrs., slim, masculine, discreet—into dancing, sports, workouts, talks and hot fun. Seeks friends of any race and someone that is very slim and under 35 yrs., to date. UB open-minded, kind, intelligent, well-rounded and, if to date, a bottom or versatile. Lee. Box # 4060

HANDSOME, SEXY, HOT ITALIAN MALE 5' 9", 150 lbs., hazel eyes, dark hair, moustache, 30 y.o. bottom seeks handsome muscular slim Black male whose romantic, sensual, loving and aggressive for possible lover. You won't be disappointed. Willing to relocate for the right guy. Box # 2058

I AM TALL, BROWN AND HANDSOME. I am 50 years old. I seek an Africentric Brother not hung up on age. If you are sincere and honest, give me a call. Box # 2144

VERY HANDSOME BLONDE/BLUE-EYED GWM BOTTOM, great body and BB; seeks masculine, aggressive and very well-hung Black Top. I'm very sexual and sensual; love it hot/hard or long/slow. Dark, over 40 and hung HUGE A+++! My mouth and ass NEVER disappoint. Box # 1080

TOP GBM, 33, 5' 8", 160 LBS. 9" HANDSOME. You: 24+ in shape, attractive light skin bottom, looking for companion and possible relationship. Box # 4040

ATTRACTIVE GWM BOTTOM, 38, 5' 10", 163 LBS., VERY ORAL, big round tight butt, intelligent, affectionate professional with a sense of humor, seeks GBM top, 30-45, muscular and macho, goal-oriented, (hung big and uncut A+). I seek and give honesty, good sex and true affection. Box # 3015

FAT BOTTOM GUYS. Let's scream the night away on, around and outside the bed. Race open. Age open. HIV-. I'm 6', 240 lbs. Mid-Wilshire area. Box # 1352

FUN LOVING MEDIUM BUILD ITALIAN MALE who loves nature, entertainment and togetherness. ISO a black male without a giant ego who enjoys the simple pleasures of life and loving. Be forewarned; I spoil my lover with love, caring and kindness, but believe it's a two-way street. Love, Tony. Box # 4077

EXHALE ON THIS: Handsome, intelligent BM, 35, into music, art, literature, film, seeks culturally literate man, any race, who is emotionally available and not afraid of real intimacy. I'm the one. Box # 1390

31 YEAR OLD BLACK MALE TOP IN SEARCH OF BLACK BOTTOM who wants to try out 6 1/2". Masculine men only. Dreadlocks, muscular men A+. Box # 1386

WHERE ARE THE REAL MEN? Look no more. 100% macho, butch, masculine, straight acting. 6' 2", 185 lbs. of pure Latin man. In search of Black men who offer the same characteristics. I am versatile but want to find out more about being at the bottom. No sissy or wimp here. All others need not respond. You had the rest, now go for the best. Box # 2152

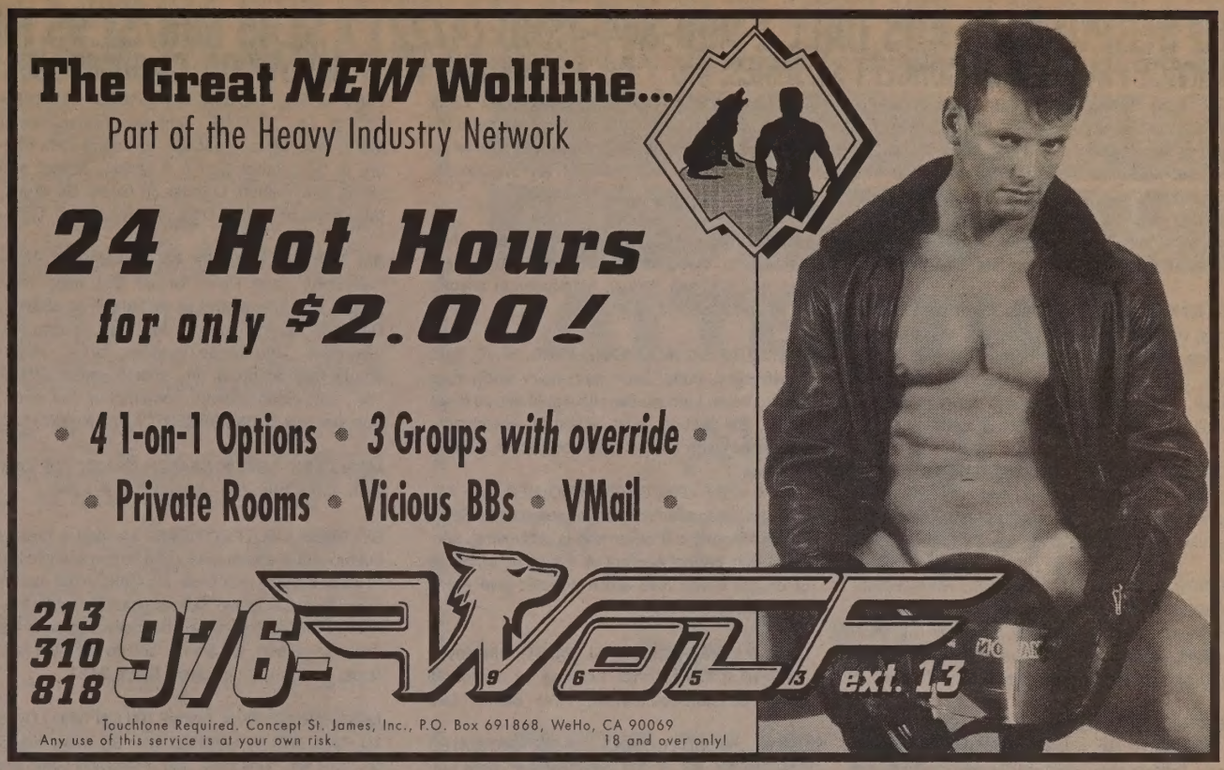
TOP GBM, 5' 8", 190 LBS., 34, LOOKING FOR BOTTOM WHITE MALES, 18-45. Looks unimportant. Must be discreet. Long Beach or South L.A. a plus. 8 1/2" dick to please. No fems. Box # 2194

BOTTOM BOY WANTED BY ATTRACTIVE, BIG DICK GBM, 25 years old, in-shape. Looking for hot, in-shape white and latin men who can take long, deep sessions. In-shape men only. Box # 1395

LOOKING FOR A LOVE TO CALL MY OWN IN 1996. I am a slender, tall, top, gay black male, age 31, 6' 1", 170 lbs. ISO black or Puerto Rican, same height and weight, between the ages of 31-39 only. No fems. Let's talk and date first. Box # 1380

HANDSOME, INTELLIGENT, MASCULINE, 27 YEAR OLD, seeking very masculine dark man, in shape and well-endowed. Should be intelligent but not arrogant. Hairiness a Plus! Box # 1382

YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT. NOW HERE'S WHERE IT IS.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WHAT DO WE HAVE IN COMMON besides being hung over-average and good looking? Box # 1378

HANDSOME, ROMANTIC BLACK PASSIONATE TOP MAN. Black male, 6'1, 190 lbs., looking for a hot Black man with nice body who wants really nice, warm and passionate love made to him. Box # 1026

SEXY BM, 27, MASCULINE, MATURE, MUSCULAR, VERSATILE, 5' 8", 150 lbs., seeks another well-endowed Bi or GM, versatile or bottom, between 25-45 for sexcapade and friendship. Masculine, mature, muscular only need apply. Box # 2250

TAKE ME. BG MASCULINE BOTTOM. I am a Black male 39 years old. Looking for a good-looking, aggressive black male top between 25-39, well hung, who knows what he's doing with this bottom. I want to meet someone who likes to go to the movies and to spend quality time at home. For I am tired of meeting men in bars. So if you are the one, please let me hear from you. I will answer you back. Box # 2141

VERY HANDSOME CLEAN-CUT WHITE BOY, nice lean build, looking for dark, hung. muscular, Black Top who's ready for just about anything. I'm wild and ready to party. Box # 2147

ATTRACTIVE BLACK MASCULINE MAN, EX-MILITARY, 37 y.o., 5' 10", 165 lbs., slim muscular body, medium brown complexion who prefers being a bottom, seeks masculine, aggressive top Black in-shape brothers who pack 8 1/2 or more of long/thick pipe (and know how to use it), for safe, clean, erotic fun. Hairy A+. Let's talk. Box # 1290

VERY MUSCULAR WHITE DUDE, INCREDIBLY HUNG 12 3/4" x 7 1/2", looking for black studs hung my size or bigger! No B.S.—Serious only. Josh Box # 2123

THIS MASCULINE, ATTRACTIVE, BALD-HEADED BROTHER WANTS TO FUCK AND SUCK YOU ALL NIGHT LONG. I'm 5' 10", 165 lbs., in shape. If you're real hot, call me. Box # 1185

HOPELESSLY ROMANTIC GBM, 32, 6' 1", 145 LBS., fun-loving and caring. Enjoys quiet romantic nights and cuddling. Seeks serious-minded individual for fun, friendship and/or possible relationship. Box # 1186

WANTED: HANDSOME CENTERFOLD, VERY BUILT, MUSCULAR MEN, no fats. I want to stroke you up if you don't mind. I have a beautiful smile, sensitive and shy. Maybe you can break me in in more than just one way. Please respond. Box # 1312

SEEKING HANDSOME, GBM BODY-BUILDER, 30, WHOSE AD WAS IN THE SPRING EDITION OF SBC. You were box #4029. I'm 29, GBM, masculine, 5' 10", 185 lbs, and also work out. If you hook up with me, you would not have to settle. Box # 4070

ISO LONG(ISH?) HAIRED WHITE MALE. Me: Non-stereotypical Black Male Top. Tall, masculine, nice looking, romantic, monogamous, emotionally available, drug-drink-smoke-free, spiritual, professional. Regular guy into sports, music, people, intimacy. Physical performance not required. Age, type open. Prefer HIV-, cut, smooth, masculine, but very open! Box # 4067

SUBMISSIVE GBM ISO DOMINANT GWM. Hi, I'm Curtis, 5' 11", 40 yrs., HIV+, 155 lbs., ISO take-charge top to put me on my knees, to service boots, feet, cock, ass, pits...his way! (Heavy verbal abuse A+). Be sane, kinky, N2 hot scenes. Box # 2192

BOTTOM ISO TOP BLK MAN. Me: Italian, 40, 5' 2", 130 lbs., well built, light brown hair, green eyes. You: Blk, total top who likes to have his dick sucked and loves to fuck. Well-endowed a must. Ciao. Box # 1351

XTREMELY MASCULINE BLACK MALE—VERY ATTRACTIVE, 28 y.o., 6', 190 lbs. Well built, employed and very independent. ISO Latin/Hispanic Cholo type with similar characteristics, for definite possible relationship. Should be HIV+ and, like me, healthy & versatile. Outy!! Box # 1051

HIP-HOP LOVERS. BAGGY CLOTHES HOMEBOY ONLY. WHAT'S UP! I'm 24. 5' 8", 150, gay Japanese male N2 hip-hop music n' clothing, movies, gym. UB young, masculine, attractive. Lorenz Tate type A+ (not nec.) Box # 1046

HANDSOME & ROMANTIC TOP. A 30 years old Brother, 6 ft., 165 lbs., HIV-, is seeking a romantic Brother in his 30's for candle light dinners, theater, quiet evenings of invigorating conversation and much more. Box # 2028

33 Y.O. SLIM HUNG HORNY MEXICAN W/PARTNER seeks other Latin couples or singles for friendship & fun. Must be handsome, masculine, in-shape, HIV- & between 21-36. Box # 2047

GWM, 49, PROFESSIONAL, FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT, ISO self-supporting, 18-50, for communication, friendship, fun and adventure. Relationship a possibility. Ethnic a plus, humor a must. Reply, don't be shy. Giving and taking oral action, massage and cuddling important. Box # 4068

BGM, 5' 4", 135 LBS. CARAMEL, ATTRACTIVE, KIND, no attitude, versatile, attractive, intelligent and independent. Seeks BGM or Latino with similar attributes. San Fernando Valley. Box # 4039

BM, 25 YEARS OLD, 5' 9", 165 LBS. TOP, looking for Bottom, 18-25 years, for serious commitment. Masculinity is mandatory. No fakes. Box # 2045

ARE YOU MR. RIGHT? This attractive, sensitive, sexy, affectionate, loving 39 year old African-American man wants to love you! I enjoy working out, movies, bowling, skating, walks on the beach, candlelight dinners, romance and giving my all to the right African-American man. I am 5' 7", 165 lbs., bald head, clean shaven, beautiful smile, coffee brown complexion, employed, intelligent, live alone, nice thick legs, round assets and a thick plunger. I'm looking for a dominant top man to accentuate my life. You should be endowed, masculine (top), enjoy working out, want a serious relationship, employed, independent, affectionate and enjoy romance. Tall men a plus, but all responses will be answered. Age unimportant...sex appeal is! HIV+ OK...game players not OK! Serious only. After reading this, do you still think you're Mr. Right? Box # 1317

BEAUTIFUL BLACK MAN WANTS SLIM LATINO for love. For Life. HIV-. Box # 1324

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YOU MUST BE BLACK. African American Brothers are the tigers I've always dreamt about. I'm looking for a Hot Real Man. With hardbody. Be Top and give nice warm passionate Love and Friendship to the Best Everlasting Serious Relationship. Me: From Africa. 24 y/o, 5' 6", 136 'bs., slim, good shape, nice body. Clean. New in L.A. Hold me before it's too late! Box # 1293

LOOKING FOR A BLK MAN 35-40 with a nice body, who wants a nice young boy and that has a nice body and stable home and enjoys outings. I'm 30 yrs. old, 170 lbs., well hung and Black. You must be versatile in the relationship, manly and enjoy hot sex. Box # 1307

TOP GBM, 40, 5/ 8", 165 LBS., ATTRACTIVE, IN SHAPE. You: 30 +, in shape and attractive, masculine, nice big bubble butt a plus. I fuck in Silverlake area. Box # 1322

SPIRITUAL BM, 6' 2", 205 LBS., HIV+, HANDSOME, LOVING, bottom mostly. You be 6' +, over 25, nice, spiritual, trusting, sexually top, nice looking, groomed. Full of love, faithful. No fems, W/D or fats. I'm hot and ready! Box # 1344

RUFFNECK WANTED. Me: Young BLK man, 5' 7", 27" w, 8" cut dick, lean, defined swimmer's body. Bottom. You: Under 6', workout body, flat stomach, 8" or more cut dick, Top homeboy/Latino skinhead, who's down for some ruff and rugged shit. Box # 2259

SINGLE AND SEXY HOT CHOCOLATE FLORIDA MAN, 5' 6", 145 lbs., seeks Black male for friendship, fun and/or sex. I'm endowed front and back. Leave a message. No fems please. Box # 1331

SEX GAM, 20'S, SMOOTH, TAN, ATHLETIC, ISO guys under 30 for friendship, fun & more...please be sincere & down 2 earth. Into R & B, running, politics & more...call me! Box # 1336

VERY WELL-ENDOWED, VERY ATTRACTIVE, CUT, VERSATILE, HIV-, 24 YEAR OLD BLACK MAN, 6', 170 lbs., great long slim body, great smile, great personality and great sex. ISO HIV-, very well-endowed, very attractive and personable Black men, 25-40, with good bodies (no overweights) and great sexual abilities (a little on the freaky side is not bad). I am into hot, safe sexual encounters. I am not into games, flakes, fems and/or irresponsibility. Let's hook up soon. You will not be disappointed. Box # 2122

WANTED: BLACK OR PUERTO RICAN BOTTOMS. Hot black top seeks hot hairy-ass bottom body builder. If you are hot, hairy, horny and a freak, leave a message. Box # 1190

HANDSOME, ROMANTIC BLACK PASSIONATE TOP MAN. Black male, 6'1, 190 lbs., looking for a hot Black man with nice body who wants really nice, warm and passionate love made to him. Box # 1026

W. FRENCH MAN ISO BIG BLACK TOP. I'm a great cook (including soul), healthy and playful, 5' 5", 160 lbs., 43 y.o., into arts & culture, walks, biking, roller skates, Star Trek, computers. You are intelligent, not2hairy, black non-smoker any age, HIV+ OK. Let's be friends; you can become my Prince Charming! Box # 1239

GBM, HOT, MASCULINE, INDEPENDENT, SHY, sexually passive bottom with potential, seeks Black, aggressive gentleman for intimacy and fun. Hairy chest and hung a plus. Looks unimportant. Boy, call me! I'll cook. Box # 1333

SINGLE AND FREE. I am a 30 year old unattached Top who seeks a Black Bottom, ages 29 to 31, for friendship, fun and/or sex. Box # 1273

WANTED: VERY LARGE, HARD, ROUNDED BUNS with smooth, muscular body, masculine, HIV-, easy-going, for friendship or more. Me: Hispanic, 5' 10", 180 lbs., down-to-earth, athletic body, outdoors, masculine, HIV-, well-endowed. Box # 1341

2 ATTRACTIVE, WELL-HUNG YOUNG MEN 23 & 19 y.o., In/Out. Looking to perform tag team for any serious persons with finances. A time to remember. Tops and bottoms are welcomed. Call for hot young sex. Box # 2130

PASSIONATE AFFECTIONATE GAY ASIAN MALE wanting to meet straight-straight acting, real dark and light-skin African Americans or anyone of African decent. Box # 2038

VERY CUTE SALVADOREAN/LATINO, 5' 7", light brown eyes, curly black hair. hairy body, nice tanned color. I am stable and would like to meet Black and Latino guys (Central Americans, Caribenos) with similar qualities. Box # 2039

I AM A VERY AFRICENTRIC BROTHER, age 49, 215 lbs., handsome and well educated. Seeking an Africentric Brother who is self-loving, sensitive, and caring! Age not an issue. no smokers or drugs. If you love Black people, give me a call. Hotep. Box # 2121

GBM, 34, WITH CEREBRAL PALSY, who loves life & all it has to offer. Looking for friendship and/or possible relationship. HIV+. Box # 1188

VERY GOOD-LOOKING, SOPHISTICATED CARIBBEAN, 33, 6' 2", lean 162 lbs., tight bottom. ISO rugged, muscular, open, dark, Black or Latino TOP man with HUGE meat, preferably hairy and under 45, for passionate lovemaking and friendship without games. Call me. You'll be very happy. Box # 1298

GHM, 47 Y.O., 5' 7", 145 LBS., ATTRACTIVE, SMART, DOWN TO EARTH & EASY GOING ISO masculine, secure Top GBM 40 y.o. or older. Call. Box # 4026

HUNGRY FOR ADVENTURE & SOMETHING DIFFERENT? Masculine black man, young 40's, 175 lbs., in search of other men who R into Leather. UB masculine Top, well-endowed, honest & sincere. No fats, fems or drugs. Safe fun only please.Box # 1346

BROTHAS ONLY. No wan'na be bitches, fat motherfuckers, bathhouse hoes, skinny or fuck limited people. Us: sexy big dick brothas. U: fine, deep juice booty brothas with warm mouths and long, thick tongues. Leave your number so we can fuck you down. Box # 2077

HANDSOME, BLACK 34 Y.O. DEEP THROAT. I love to give oral satisfaction to the right masculine Black man. Call me for long night sessions. Box # 1241

HOT AND HORNY TOP. Black man, 31, 5'11, 175 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, smooth toned body, big cut dick. Into good times and romance. Box # 1210

TIRED OF CRUIZE SPOTS LIKE PARKS, BOOKSTORES, ETC.? Cum and let's all 20 of us do it together and fuck the night away. We get together once a month. Tell all your fit, in-shape and muscular friends to cum join in. Leave a message with your phone #. Box # 1135

ROMANTIC CUTE GBM TOP, 23, 5' 11", HIV-, IN SHAPE, GOATEE, ISO cute, in shape gay Black, Latin, Cuban or Puerto Rican male 21-32, HIV-bottom for friendship/relationship. N2 movies, dancing, holding hands and walks on the beach. Goatee A+. No fats or fems.
Box # 2153

I'M A 36 Y.O. BLACK WARRIOR IN NEED of any mature, well-endowed masculine Black King (above 22 years) to lead me into your most desired fantasy. If you're that big Dick Black King who could serve me right (from the back), call me and let your warrior please you your way. Black well-hung Kings only. Box # 1269

VERY ATTRACTIVE BLACK/HISPANIC, 21 YEARS OLD, 5' 11", 170 LBS., light skin, boyish, seeks black, masculine, muscular, attractive father figure or big brother type 4 a serious sexual and loving relationship. U must be clean. No drugs, fats, fems or flakes. Dark skin A+. Box # 1053

BM TOP ISO WM FOR MONOGAMOUS RELATIONSHIP. Long Hair? Great! But okay from preppy to professional to midlength to shaved. Depends on the person. Me: Tall, masculine, attractive, mustache/goatee. drug, drink, smoke-free; spiritual, into sports, music. Prefer HIV-, cut, clean-shaven, non-smoker, but open. Can you say "COMMITMENT"? Box # 4067

MASCULINE GBM IN SEARCH OF HOT TOP LATINOS. Let's burn the sheets! Box # 1348

BIG BUBBLE BUTT BOTTOMS! Me and a host of bubble butt in-shape masculine bottoms would like to invite big pipe dick brothuhs (only) to our monthly fuckfest. Come and fuck us down till we get raw. Answer this ad and you will be fucking some of the best ass in town. We are not and do not want fats, fems, or anything not black. Box # 2151

NON-STEREOTYPICAL NATIVE ITALIAN WHO LOVES TO FUCK AND BE SUCKED. Me: 38 years old, 5' 2", 128 lbs., well built. You: Preferably GBM and insatiable. Fat & fem plz abstain. Box #3014

GAY AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALE, HIV+, 28 years old, 145 lbs., 5' 11" tall, very deep dark complexion, with a slender but tone body build. Would like to meet Gay Middle Eastern, Hispanic and Latin men between the ages of 25-35 for a monogamous slow romantic relationship, quality time and dating. Box # 1228

HOT HARDBODY TOP SEEKS HOT HARDBODY BOTTOMS for fun, good times and good love making. I'm big, black, beautiful and buff with lots of dick for yo' ass. Call me if you can take it. Box # 1174

A CUTE LATINO WANTED BY GOOD-LOOKING 30 Y.O.LATINO GAY MAN, 140 lbs., 5' 7", into gym, swimming, school, movies, with experience, HIV-, responsible and educated. U same. Outdoors be a gentleman, indoors be wild. no fems, fats or drugs. Call for friendship or more. First timers O.K. Box # 1089

GWM, 36, 6' 2", 185 LBS., NICE TAN BUBBLE BUTT BOTTOM wants BM uncut muscular Top who likes pounding tight white ass. I love to suck uncut Black cocks (muscles a must) I like to get J/O while getting it. Box # 3030

30 YEAR OLD HALF WHITE, HALF HISPANIC BOTTOM seeks professional GBM top, semi to good physical shape 29 to 45 years old for special monogamous 1 on 1 relationship. Penis size unimportant. I like cute carressable butts. Box # 2067

NEW ADVENTURE IN ALL MALE FUCKING! Black trade (masculine, all shades, hung and versatile) in all positions willing to do whatever it takes to get a piece of U (if you are tall, black, masculine and toned). We want you and your click to come together with ours for a group interlude. Leave a message!. Box # 3022

TALL, DARK AND HANDSOME GBM TOP, 24, Intelligent, buff, college senior looking for GBM in good shape, great body and very intelligent, ready to meet and enjoy good company. Box # 1177

WANTED, ROUGHNECK BROTHAS. We want you to fuck the shit out of us. You need to be 7 1/2 or bigger, well-built and have a good over-sexed attitude. We do not want nothin'-brothas with nothin' to offer (short dick motherfuckers with attitudes who won't get fucked). Box # 1124

29 YR. OLD ITALIAN, VERY ATTRACTIVE, OLIVE SKIN, BROWN HAIR, SMOOTH SWIMMER'S BODY ISO romantic, attractive Afro-American man 25-35. Top/Bottom irrelevant. Whatever works for you. Fucking is important, but let's go to movies, the beach, dinners. I want a companion, not a piece of meat! Box # 1042

HOT & HORNY TOP Heavy-set SBM, 5'11", 235 lbs., 6 1/2". I am a top who enjoys going out to movies & a good meal. UB masculine, SBM, 5' 10" or above, around 190 lbs., thick or muscular. No queens, excessive obesity or non-blacks. Box # 2151

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING REAL? Healthy, masculine GBM, 6' 3" 220 lbs. and handsome. Seeks honest gay male 23-36 for friendship and possible relationship. I enjoy quiet evenings at home, movies, plays, musicals, concerts, candle light dinners and romantic walks on the beach. Please, no fems. Serious callers only. Box # 1084

WM, 48, DISTINGUISHED LOOKING, versatile professional, seeking honest, sincere, super hung, versatile, short (5'3" and under) BM for fun and possible relationship. Allen. Box # 1002

ATTRACTIVE MUSCULAR WELL-ENDOWED BGM TOP, 25, seeks very discreet, masculine men WHO LOVE TO GET FUCKED. Age 19-30. Box # 1015

BLACK AND WHITE TOGETHER. Good-looking Gay blond male wants to please that sexy Afro-American male—bi, straight or gay! Call me—You'll like! Box # 4055

ROMANTIC AFRICAN AMERICAN TOP. 32 year old openly gay, attractive, well-endowed, masculine dark skin African American, 5' 11", 165 lbs. Into theater, literature, candle light dinners at home and romantic lovemaking. Serious only please. Box # 4017

MASCULINE 39 Y.O. SEEKS SIMILAR. Blk, 200 lbs., 6 Ft., moustache, ponytail, into gym, kids, love, friendship, sex, feet, film and self-knowledge. Be real, honest, masculine and open—and I could be had. HIV, white, Hispanic okay. Box # 1024

WHITE MALE, 31, BROWN HAIR, BLUE EYES looking for relationship-minded black male age 30-45. I want to meet someone who likes to read, go to movies and spend quality time at home. Tired of meeting men in bars. Will answer all. Box # 2029

HOT AND HANDSOME BLACK MALE TOP, 29, 6' 2". I like fucking. I'm equipped to service you. Black attractive bottoms in need of good loving done the right way. Call. Be mine tonight. Let's talk. Box # 2026

NO QUEENS. BLACK MEN ONLY WITH A SENSE OF HUMOR. I'm 22 and looking for someone real, if nothing more, a friend. Give me a call. Tall, bald heads & big dicks a plus but not necessary. Someone real is. Box # 1305

HOT WHITE SOUL MAN SEEKS HANDSOME HORSE HUNG TOP. Me: 6', 170, 8", smooth, muscular, butch, passionate, bottom beauty. UB muscular, masculine & hung huge to satisfy my hungry hole & deep throat. Equipped playroom available. Be cool. Call. Box # 1272

LOOKING FOR GOOD HEAD? 42 year old black male, 5'6", 150 lbs., passable looks, F/A; No/GR. U B black, oriental, Hispanic, No. African, Puerto Rican, Egyptian, any man of color. Over 6' tall or under 5' short & uncut a +. Cock size unimportant. U must B clean, no drugs, pros, fats or fems. My place or? Days & some evenings. Very, very discreet—UB2. U won't B sorry. L.A. area. No games, no head trips. I'M GOOD. Box # 1012

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BIG BLACK DICK LIKES TO FUCK. I'm a 26 yr. old dark skinned black man with 9 1/2 fat inches looking for sweet bottoms who want it big, thick and slow. Box # 3002

DARK WARRIORS ONLY. Seeking a GBM dark skinned warrior. I'm a hot GBM bottom, 21, cat brown eyes, light brown skinned, 5' 5", medium build. I enjoy movies, dancing, dinners, music and collecting Teddy bears. I'm seeking a GBM top, 21-35, dark skinned a plus. If you want a new friend, call. Box # 1181

PASSIONATE AFFECTIONATE GAY ASIAN MALE wanting to meet straight-straight acting, real dark and light-skin African Americans or anyone of African decent. Box # 2038

A BOTTOM SEEKING A TOP. Black gay male 39 years old, 6' 1", 200 lbs. I am looking for a Top 25-37, down to earth, loving, caring, romantic. Someone intelligent & understanding who loves to get down all night long. Please leave a message. Box # 3003

ATTRACTIVE HISPANIC BOTTOM, 44, medium build, with love buns, seeks well hung Black Top man with very thick 8" or more for prolong hot times on a regular basis. Make me take it in any way you can deliver it. Box # 1096

VGL WM, 30, 6', 192 LBS into very muscular, intelligent, fun, affectionate, communicative Black men. I am articulate, witty, fun, with a good sense of humor, into working out, music, movies and friends. I am a good catch and you should be too. Box # 2113

VERY CUTE SALVADOREAN/LATINO, 5' 7", light brown eyes, curly black hair. hairy body, nice tanned color. I am stable and would like to meet Black and Latino guys (Central Americans, Caribenos) with similar qualities. Box # 2039

NICE LOOKING BM, 6' 1", 205 LBS. VERY BIG LEGS, XXXCALFS. I need BIG DICK TRADE to go deep into my pussy. Only 95% tops. Be good looking, professional, clean, nice, Black, P. Rican, Cuban, Latin. I'm manly and fem. No queens or fems, or under 9" Box # 1252

PASSIONATE, STABLE, TOGETHER WM seeking a mate. Preferably GBM. I'm 30 y.o., 5' 8", 155 lbs., attractive, sexy & a bottom. Sincere, intelligent, attractive, sexy, no games, none-scene type of individual wanted. Seek and you shall find—. Box # 2020

GBM, 32, 6' 1", 160 LBS. I AM MARRIED but looking for serious minded part time love. I enjoy music, TV and long walks on the beach. You be in good shape, open minded, rough trade. Bi okay, strong willed and minded. Versatile a big plus. Must be discreet. Box # 1286

GBM, 30, 5' 7", 155 LBS., DENZEL-LOOKING CHRISTIAN in-shape who works out, enjoys listening to music and being a man and who doesn't hate women. I love sexy, cool mixed-race men, 23-30, born on the east coast who are able to go back to the hood, tight body, nice feet, sexy lips. Box # 1375

SHM (PUERTO RICAN), 21, HANDSOME, AVG. HEIGHT, MEDIUM BUILD. Short dark hair, moustache, goatee, brown skin. Seeking casual, tall, big, hairy or non hairy Hispanic homeboy type (18-48) top with a big (8 1/2+) thick dick! for companionship. Regular guy lkg 4 regular guy who's not into the scene, drugs, all this bullshit out here! I love to joke around and have fun in and out of bed. Let's do it together. Call me now! Box # 4079

HANDSOME, HOT, HORNY, ROMANTIC, SUBMISSIVE BM, 55, 5' 11", 155 lbs., HIV +, seeks a "boxsy" white guy (long hair a +). Submissive has need to surrender to a patient, caring, verbal, boss into having it "his way". Open to bondage, gear, etc. with relationship possibilities. Box # 1367

MASTER SEEKS BLK TRAINEES for TT, CBT, Butt discipline, dress code, attitude adjustment, physical training, total service. You: under 32, in shape, cln shaven, thick tongue, horse hung, bull nuts, bubble butt, novice. Uncut A+. Me: Mid 40s, X-Marine, in shape, experienced. No fakes, fems, barflies, smokers, druggies, gold diggers. Box # 2131

SEXY GAM, 20'S, SMOOTH, TAN, ATHLETIC, ISO GUYS UNDER 30 for friendship, fun & more...please be sincere & down 2 earth. Into R & B, running, politics & more...call me! Box # 1336

BGM, 35, MASCULINE, MUSCULAR TOP, 5'11", 170 lbs., HIV-, seeks well-endowed GBM bottoms between 35-50 for sexual friction and casual friendship. Box # 1169

ATTRACTIVE DARK SKIN BGM HIV- TOP, 5' 8", 151 lbs., young-looking 40's, endowed, cut, intelligent, romantic, ISO an attractive, intelligent, in shape, HIV- bottom in his 20's or 30's for romantic encounters. Box # 1033

CAMPING & HIKING MAN WANTED BY GWM, 6' 1", 205 LBS., HIV-, 37: likes outdoors, hiking, hot springs, bicycling, camping. Seeking a n/s GM who is looking for a friend to do these things with. Box # 3046

BM, 50, 5' 11", 185 LBS., STR8 ACTING, SPIRITUAL, MUSCULAR; intelligent, gym-goer, into books, walks, talks, music. Seeks BM/H with similar intellect for monogamous relationship, between 45 y.o. & 55 y.o. Serious only respond. HIV-. "Yall, this ain't no sex call." Box #2133

CARIBBEAN NATIVE: SUCCESSFUL, CUTE, FRENCH-SPEAKING, 34, 5' 9", 140 LBS. New to L.A., into cycling, swimming, travel and romance. Looking for a special, independent, masculine topman, any age, who appreciates the finer things in life. Homeboy or cholo type will be considered. Box # 1133

NEW FROM TEXAS. WOULD YOU LIKE A SUPER-FREAK? Well I'm into stud black tops with big huge cocks who know what they want. Must be 25-35, top and real. I'm a 25 GWM, 6', 190 lbs. blonde, green eyes and excellent underneath. Someone who will last. Box # 1377
AFFECTIONATE, EASY-GOING, FUN TO BE WITH GAY ASIAN MALE seeks straight-acting or straight man of color for friendship and maybe much more. Box # 2090

BLACK MALE, 6' 1", 39 YEARS OLD. I'm a bottom who is looking for a well hung cock on a masculine male to work on this "hot" ass all night long. If this sounds good to you, give me a call. Box # 2089

GBM, HOT, MASCULINE, INDEPENDENT, SHY, sexually passive bottom with potential, seeks Black, aggressive gentleman for intimacy and fun. Hairy chest and hung a plus. Looks unimportant. Boy, call me! I'll cook. Box # 1333

SUCKSLAVE NEEDS TO PLEASE! Keep me at crotch level for long sessions of repeated servicing. I won't question your needs and will take each load. Seek single or couple. Your place weekdays 10 AM/ 3 PM I'm normally available to completely satisfy the oral way. WM 47. Horny. Box # 1362

LOOKING FOR LOVE & AFFECTION!!! BGM, 47 years young, HIV+, business oriented, shy, attractive Pisces, ISO a black man—35 to 55 years young—interested in a committed & passionate relationship. I'm tired of being along and looking for love and affection!!! Box # 1356

TALL, DARK & HANDSOME 6' 4", 209 LBS. OF STRAIGHT LUV seeks the Impossible. UB Black w/no games, drugs or bull. Start as friends, etc. If you are not happy, what's the point? Box # 1366

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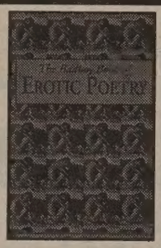

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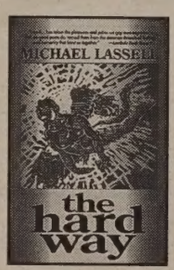

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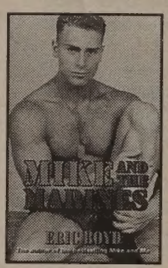

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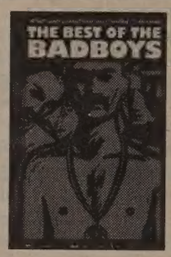

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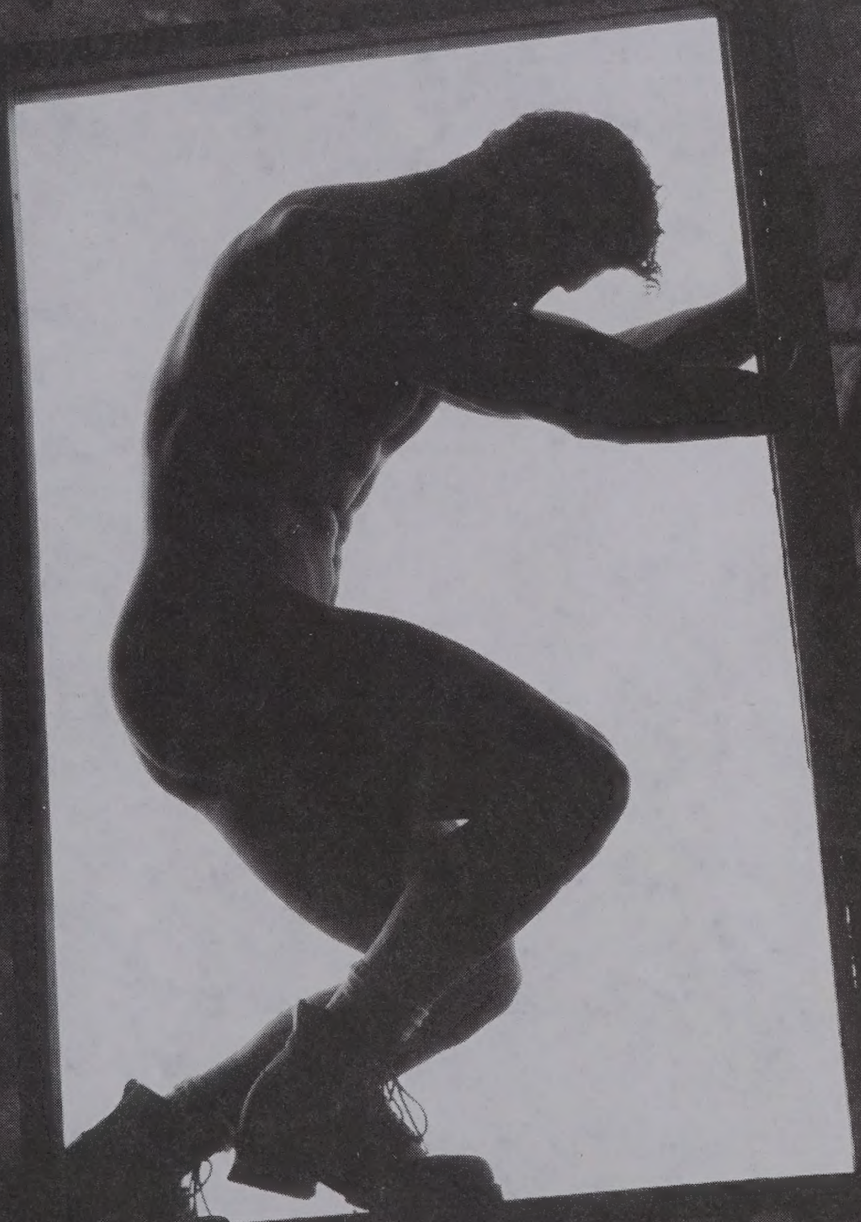

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"Will you die for me?"

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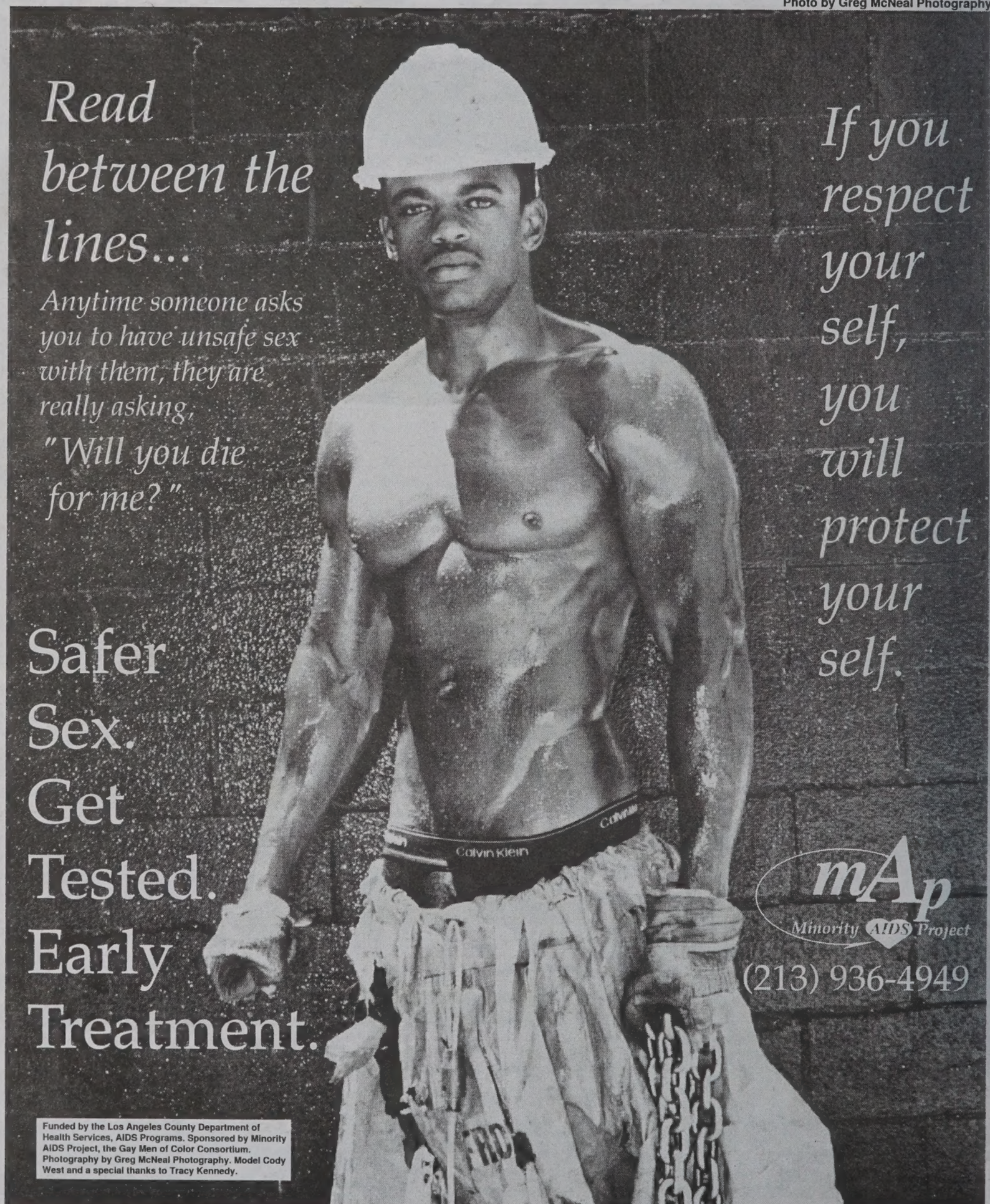
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